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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

Vol. 63. NO. 1 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1948 TEN CENTS

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Showmen Vote Crosby Tops Again in Poll

Grable, Bergman, Cooper, Bogart Among 10 Leaders

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1. — It's Bing Crosby again!

For the fourth successive year the Paramount star emerged in 1947 as top "Money-Making" performer in the annual *Motion Picture Herald—Fame* poll of exhibitors, with both independent and circuit divisions of the poll agreeing on his selection.

In the sixteen years of the poll's existence, no other player, except Shirley Temple (1935-38) has held No. 1 rank four times. This is Crosby's eighth listing among the "Top Ten" stars whose pictures earned the most money for U. S. exhibitors. His films during 1947 were "Blue Skies," "Welcome Stranger," "Variety Girl" and "Road to Rio."

In the "Western Stars" division of the poll, Roy Rogers was voted No.

(*Continued on page 4*)

Industry Is Cited For Its War Work

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—General Omar Bradley, newly-appointed chief of staff of the Department of the Army and former director of the Veterans Administration, has thanked the film and other fields of entertainment for its war-time activity as well as its postwar service to men in Occupation Armies and to the hospitalized.

General Bradley thanked the motion

(*Continued on page 4*)

FCC Delays Para. Television Status

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The Federal Communications Commission has postponed from Jan. 5 to Mar. 1 the date for hearings to determine whether Paramount controls Allen B. Dumont Laboratories and other video subsidiaries of Paramount.

At stake are applications of Paramount subsidiaries for five new television stations. The FCC held that these five would give Paramount and Paramount-controlled companies a total of nine—four more than the maximum allowed. New England Theatres, Inc., a Paramount subsidiary, asked the commission to postpone the hearing until Feb. 16, but apparently this date was filled, and the FCC set March 1 instead.

Italy Decrees No Film Quota

By ARGEO SANTUCCI

ROME, Jan. 1.—The Italian government has decreed a quota-less 1948 for motion picture imports.

Dispelling fears in some quarters that film restrictive measures were impending, the government yesterday announced that imports will in no wise be limited in the new year. Italy will, however, continue to block funds, but will permit the expenditure of profits from American and other foreign films, with the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, for the following purposes:

Modernizing Italian studios and otherwise reconstructing them; co-producing Italian films up to a limit of 80 per cent of their cost; purchasing Italian films and also for the production here of films in behalf of U. S. or other foreign companies.

Import Favor for UK in Canada Ends

TORONTO, Jan. 1.—Canada's preferential tariff on film imports from the United Kingdom ceased to exist as of today under the Geneva trade and tariff convention. Thus, the duty on motion pictures from all countries became standardized at a reduced rate.

The levy on negatives is reduced from 27½ per cent to 10 per cent, while the excise on positive prints is reduced from 2¼ cents to 1½ cents per foot.

With discontinuance of the British preference of 50 per cent which is ap-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Canada Film Exports Continue to Rise

Ottawa, Jan. 1.—Canadian film exports continued to increase in November, rising to $236,000 compared with $159,000 in the corresponding month of 1946 and bringing the total for the first 11 months to $2,856,000, against $2,362,000 in the similar 1946 period, according to the External Trade Branch of the Canadian government.

In the last full peacetime year, 1938, film exports amounted to $3,308,000.

Canada Operating 67 Rural Circuits

OTTAWA, Jan. 1. — National Film Board of Canada in 1946-47 operated 67 rural film circuits, each of which covered a minimum of 20 points per month, giving a total of 16,080 exhibitions during the year.

The board also assisted provincial and local agencies in operating 90 supplementary circuits. The total rural audience reached during the year was 2,760,443. At showings held for students in schools the average monthly audience was 109,957.

The board completed and released 164 films, including newsreels and trailers in 1946-47. Of this number, 22 English and 19 French-language subjects were included as regular items on entertainment programs in more than 300 commercial theatres, reaching an estimated audience of over 2,000,000 motion picture patrons each month.

FPC to Set Up Its Own Video Outfit in Canada

TORONTO, Jan. 1. — Famous Players Canadian Corp., Paramount circuit affiliate, will organize in Canada a television production company which will be separate and apart from Paramount's American television subsidiary, Television Productions, Inc., it was disclosed here today by J. J. Fitzgibbons, FPC president, who recently returned here from New York where he discussed television plans with Paramount officials. This is understood to preclude Television Productions' entry into operations in this country.

But Fitzgibbons, who discussed also in New York the introduction of visual broadcasting in Canadian theatres, said he was not certain as to when theatre television will appear in Canada.

Canadian television developments are awaiting action by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., the government company which holds license control over video.

Meanwhile, in his capacity as chairman of the National Committee of Motion Picture Exhibitors Associations of Canada, Fitzgibbons announced that the second meeting of the organization will be held early in January for preparation of a brief calling for repeal of the Dominion's 20 per cent war excise tax on theatre grosses. The brief will be presented to Canadian Finance Minister D. C. Abbott.

Memphis Trust Suit Settled Out of Court

Agree to Change System Of Distribution on 2d Runs

MEMPHIS, Jan. 1.—Settlement of the anti-trust suit brought against M. A. Lightman and his associates and eight major film distributors by a number of neighborhood theatres was announced yesterday. While William Goodman, attorney for Lightman, declined to give any financial details, it is believed that, based on previous reports, the settlement will involve about $200,000.

In addition, the agreement reached in out-of-court conferences changes the entire distribution system here by making films available to a whole group of neighborhood theatres on the same date.

Named as defendants in the suit which was filed in Federal Court,

(*Continued on page 4*)

Loew Board Up for Reelection Jan. 30

All incumbent members of the board of directors of Loew's, Inc., will be up for reelection at the company's annual stockholders' meeting, to be held here, Jan. 30.

Present board consists of Nicholas M. Schenck, president; Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president; William F. Rodgers, distribution vice-president; J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and counsel; Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president and treasurer; Leopold Friedman, vice-president, secretary

(*Continued on page 4*)

M-G-M Record Firm Hit by Petrillo Ban

All instrumental recordings by M-G-M Records, the platter division of Loew's, ceased at midnight on Wednesday as the ban on AFM members performing for discs was put into effect by James Caesar Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians.

M-G-M Records is the sole disc subsidiary in the motion picture industry. Its recordings, on the market only since last March, have drawn upon the services of outside artists as well as talent appearing in M-G-M pictures. The company is understood to have built up a backlog of recordings expected to last for a number of years.

Personal Mention

ERIC JOHNSTON, Motion Picture Association president, will stop off in San Francisco next week for a Bank of America board meeting en route to Hollywood where he is expected on Wednesday. He is currently at his home in Spokane.

•

MRS. OREN ROOT, JR., daughter of 20th Century-Fox president SPYROS P. SKOURAS, gave birth to a son, OREN ROOT, III, on Tuesday at Doctors Hospital here.

•

EDNA HIGGINS, secretary to C. N. ODELL, head of Paramount's press department, was married this week to FRED STRAUSS. The couple is on a Southern honeymoon.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, will address the annual convention of United Theatre Owners of Illinois in Springfield, Jan. 8-9.

•

CHARLES J. SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox's advertising-publicity director, will return to New York on Monday from Miami Beach.

•

MICHAEL BALCON, British producer, has been knighted by KING GEORGE VI.

•

EDDIE CANTOR will celebrate 39 years in show business tomorrow.

Second E-L Meeting Tomorrow, Sunday

A. W. Schwalberg, Eagle-Lion distribution vice-president, has set a second regional sales meeting, to be held tomorrow and Sunday, in Dallas. The meeting, which will follow the same general pattern set in Cleveland meetings two weeks ago, will be presided over by Harold S. Dunn, assistant general sales manager; Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising-publicity, and Frank Soule, in charge of branch operations.

QP Chicago Offices At New Location

Effective today, the Chicago editorial and advertising offices of Quigley Publications will be moved from 624 South Michigan Ave. to 120 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Ill. Urben Farley is the Chicago advertising representative of Quigley Publications.

Harry Peer, 56

TORONTO, Jan. 1.—Harry E. Peer, 56, a showman for 30 years, and a member of Famous Players' 25-Year Club, died this week in St. Joseph's Hospital at Guelph, where he had been with the Palace Theatre for some time. He is survived by the widow, a son, two brothers and two sisters.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

IF not for recent events, Fred Wehrenberg's comment on admission prices in his year-end statement would have found its final resting place in the Read and Noted Department. What he said was this:

"We must remember that the phenomenal success of the industry has been due entirely because it has been the entertainment of the masses. If, for any reason, we price motion pictures out of the mass market into the class market, it could well prove disastrous. For, as the admission charges go up, the competition from other forms of entertainment will increase.

"The comparatively low admissions for motion pictures caused the decline in the number of theatres with stage shows—dramatic, musical, vaudeville and burlesque. But too many $1.25 motion pictures could very quickly bring about the strongest kind of competition.

■

One of the persisting difficulties confronting this industry, and we suppose others as well, is the temptation in ignoring the distinction between opportunity and opportunism.

Opportunity is constantly at the beck and call of the industry provided it remains alert enough to recognize the signs. There is opportunity in strengthening the place of the exhibitor and his theatre in the community. Never wanting is opportunity for the industry to re-forge and to expand the links of its public service functions.

With vision, this industry can ever widen its horizons even as it carries forward its primary function of entertaining a public whose allegiance is assured.

■

Too little realized, however, is the obligation which the industry owes this public. In the last year and for the first time in our experience, many exhibitors openly challenged the opportunistic splurge in $1.25 attractions with this:

"If we have to exact a price premium ranging from 200 to 400 per cent in order to get $1.25 from our audiences, we ought to be consistent by handing back the premium when we play a stinker as we frequently do."

It becomes an unfortunate state of affairs for a producer to find himself beautifully stuck with a negative cost in seven staggering figures. Within reason, he has some right to look to the exhibitor to help him out of his jam. But there is nothing in the book which suggests such an expectancy extends to the public by demanding admissions two to four times greater than prevailing scales.

The distributor often is in a position to wrap his sales formula around the neck of the exhibitor, but he cannot pass it along to a public wise enough or stubborn enough to resist. Four million dollars poured into an attraction are enough dollars to guarantee plenty of production value, but are no guarantee that the result is entertainment warranting an unconscionable step-up in prices.

This is a lesson in opportunism which the industry is yet to learn.

■ ■

TAKE-IT-UP-WITH-THE-HOME-OFFICE NOTE: "In the case of Hitt vs. East Texas Theatres, 203 SW [2] [963] a theatre manager deliberately set fire to a theatre. The building and contents adjoining the theatre were destroyed. A suit was instituted by the adjoining building owner for damages. It was held that there would be no recovery first, because the setter of the fire was not acting within the scope of his employment and second, the theatre owner had not ratified or condoned the act of the manager in wilfully burning the theatre"—Reported recently by the TOA.

■ ■

What gives Phil Reisman that wistful look?

Ecuador, according to Nate Golden of the Department of Commerce, is an almost perfect market for American films. There is no competition there from natively produced films. No trade barrier against American films exist. Quotas are *non est*. Taxes are moderate. Censorship is lenient.

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Rockefeller Center
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In TECHNICOLOR
GREAT CHRISTMAS STAGE SHOW

BOB HOPE
SIGNE HASSO
WM. BENDIX
in "WHERE THERE'S LIFE" A Paramount Picture
in Person STAN KENTON And His Orchestra JUNE CHRISTY Extra VIC DAMONE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

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HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
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20th CENTURY-FOX

Joan CRAWFORD Dana ANDREWS Henry FONDA
"DAISY KENYON"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus On Stage — Lanny Ross - Wiere Bros. Beatrice Kraft & Co. - Hollace Shaw Senor Wences
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with

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Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK

Screen Play by MOSS HART

Directed by ELIA KAZAN

20th CENTURY-FOX

Crosby Tops Poll

(*Continued from page* 1)

1 for the fifth consecutive year, and Gene Autry rose from the previous year's third place to second.

Betty Grable finished as runner-up to Crosby. Her fifth poll appearance, she is the only "glamour girl" who ever topped the poll (1943), and rose from ninth place in 1946. Ingrid Bergman, second in 1946, is third in the latest poll despite the fact that she did not have a single new picture this year. Following in the "Top Ten" category, in the order named, are: Gary Cooper, Humphrey Bogart, Bob Hope, Clark Gable, Gregory Peck, Claudette Colbert and Alan Ladd.

Third in the Western Division is William Boyd, followed in this order: Bill Elliott, George (Gabby) Hayes, Charles Starrett, Smiley Burnette, Johnny Mack Brown, Dale Evans (first feminine player to "crash" the heretofore 100 per cent masculine company of money-making Western stars), and Eddie Dean.

Circuits Put Bergman Second

Miss Bergman ran second to Crosby in the separate polling of circuit exhibitors; Gary Cooper took No. 2 spot in the voting of independent exhibitors; both circuit and independent exhibitors voted Miss Grable third place, but by virtue of the total number of votes cast for her she emerged second in the combined poll.

The next seven spots in the circuit voting were taken, respectively, by Bogart, Cooper, Hope, Peck, Claudette Colbert, Ladd and Gable. The independents placed the next seven in this order: Gable, Hope, Bogart, Van Johnson, Spencer Tracy, Miss Bergman and Miss Colbert.

The next fifteen in the combined circuit and independent voting in the order named, follow: Cary Grant, Rogers, Johnson, Tracy, Larry Parks, Abbott and Costello, Fred MacMurray, Rita Hayworth, Margaret O'Brien, Tyrone Power, Joan Crawford, Barbara Stanwyck, Dana Andrews, Esther Williams and Cornel Wilde.

Crosby Canadian Choice

Crosby was first also in the Canadian poll. Canadian exhibitors picked also for second to seventh place, respectively, Miss Bergman, Bogart, Miss Grable, Cooper, Hope and Peck, and came up with Wilde, Parks and Rogers in eighth, ninth and tenth places, respectively. Next 15 in the Canadian voting were, in order of appearance: Grant, Miss Hayworth, Abbott and Costello, Miss O'Brien, Bette Davis, Gable, Maureen O'Hara, Ladd, Power, Miss Stanwyck, Tracy, Miss Colbert, Betty Hutton, Miss Williams and Miss Crawford.

Canadian vote for "Top Ten" Western stars added up to this listing, from one to 10: Rogers, Autry, Hayes, Boyd, Elliott, Burnette, Starrett, Andy Devine, Sons of the Pioneers, Ken Maynard.

No Theatre Changes Reported by Big 5

No changes in theatre holdings were reported by the five theatre-owning defendants in the Paramount, *et al*, New York anti-trust case, as they filed their formal, three-month interval report with the New York Federal Court here Wednesday.

As previously, they reiterated their intention to await the U. S. Supreme Court's decision on appeals before embarking on theatre holding adjustments.

Review

"Secret Beyond the Door"

(*Universal-International*)

A FASCINATING story of a schizophrenic told in a manner which should hold the interest of audiences. Although there has been a number of psychological thrillers, this one is distinguished by an intriguing and suspenseful plot and good characterizations by Joan Bennett and Michael Redgrave.

Miss Bennett, as a wealthy, attractive American visiting Mexico, falls in love with and marries an American architect, whom she had known only a few days. Soon after their marriage she notices some of his idiosyncrasies and is surprised by the many strange things in the architect's home. Redgrave, as the moody husband has not told his bride about a son by his first marriage. Anne Revere, as the dominating sister of Redgrave, gives a good performance and so does Barbara O'Neil, the secretary. Miss Bennett discovers that her husband is a psychopathic case with a desire to kill—he killed his first wife. The new wife realizes that if she can discover the cause of his condition, he can be saved. Miss Bennett finds that an incident from childhood is the cause of Redgrave's maladjustment and when the cause is determined the condition is relieved.

The secretary attempts to set the house on fire to kill Miss Bennett because she had hoped to be Redgrave's second wife. Redgrave rescues Miss Bennett from being burned to death and they look forward to a happy future. A Diana production, this is presented by Walter Wanger. Silvia Richards wrote the screenplay, which is based on a story by Rufus King. Fritz Lang produced and directed.

Running time 98 minutes. Adult audience classification. Set for January release. M. R. Y.

Para. Short Covers Highlights of 1947

News highlights of 1947 are depicted in a 20-minute subject by Paramount News, for which a press screening was held here Wednesday at the home office. Now being shown in the nation's theatres, it constitutes a vivid remembrance of things past.

Entitled "1947, The Year of Division," the subject is divided into three parts. Part I covers the news high spots and brings back such headlines as the Texas City disaster, the Palestine partition, the Washington hearings of Howard Hughes and Bennett E. Myers, the Hollywood probe, the "New Look," labor, and speculation on who will be the President in 1948.

Part II and III, under the subtitle "The Story of the East-West Split," broadly examines international trends and deals with the "cold war" and the struggle between the East and West to shape Europe's future. Conflicting ideologies and the Marshall Plan also come in for examination.

Narrated by George Putnam, Maurice Joyce and Frank Gallop, with a commentary written by Max Klein, the subject is a fascinating pictorial diary of 1947 that should hold the widest audience appeal. M. H.

Industry Is Cited

(*Continued from page* 1)

picture industry for donating films that were shown all over the globe throughout the war and stars of screen and radio who contributed time, talent or material to maintain the Armed Forces radio service during and after the war.

The General applauded the industry at a luncheon ceremony during which he presented a joint War-Navy Department citation for its war services through USO-Camp Shows, Inc., which passed out of existence yesterday. Three hundred leaders of Hollywood, along with stars of screen, radio and stage saw Patty Thomas, globe-girdling dancer of Los Angeles, accept a scroll as the representative of uncounted thousands of performers who entertained the Armed Forces in the United States and 42 foreign countries.

Loew Board Election

(*Continued from page* 1)

and counsel; and David Warfield, William A. Parker, Henry Rogers Winthrop and Eugene W. Leake.

During the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1947, 56 Loew executives and others in the company, received remuneration in excess of $100,000, according to a meeting notice sent to stockholders. Ninety-three received in excess of $50,000 but not more than $100,000, and 223 received in excess of $20,000 but not more than $50,000. Aggregate remuneration paid these 372, who were other than officers or directors of the company, was $22,226,669.

Eight officers received remuneration increases during the last fiscal year. They are: Howard Dietz, receiving $22,500 increase and a total of $104,285; Friedman, with $20,000 increase and total of $130,357; Moskowitz, $28,000 increase, $156,428 total; Marvin H. Schenck, $22,000 increase, $104,285 total; Vogel, $40,000 increase, $156,428 total; Jesse T. Mills, $2,300 increase, $31,285 total; Parker, $200 increase, $8,600 total; Winthrop, $100 increase, $6,400 total. Other officers' and directors' remuneration for the year: Leake, $25,000; Alexander Lichtman, $200,000; Edgar J. Mannix, $202,607; Louis B. Mayer, $500,000; Rodgers, $114,714; Rubin, $215,642; N. M. Schenck, $224,767; Benjamin Thau, $200,000.

Pursuant to Rodgers' employment contract, the company also deposited in escrow $79,000 during the year ending Aug. 31, 1947. Under terms of the contract, the first of a series of 180 monthly payments to Rodgers of $1,738 each was begun on July 29, 1947, out of a fund deposited in escrow to that date.

Memphis Trust Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

were Lightman, W. P. Zerilla, several officials of Malco, and the eight major distributors. The plaintiffs charged discrimination against them in favor of Lightman-owned theatres on second run pictures for neighborhood showings.

The suit is dismissed with prejudice, meaning that it cannot be brought to trial again.

News Briefs

CHARLES SCHOOL, formerly field auditor for M-G-M, has been named office manager of the company's Boston branch. Arthur Sklar, who had been pinch-hitting as Boston office manager, has returned to his former duties as field auditor.

Sklar will be on hand, with eight other field auditors, for their annual meeting, to be held Jan. 6-8 at the Astor Hotel, here. Charles K. Stearns, assistant treasurer of Loew's, and Alan Cummings, in charge of exchange operations jointly will conduct the three-day sessions. Also attending will be Harry A. Simons, John J. Ash, Edward Urschel, Charles Bell, H. C. Gentzel, Oliver C. Broughton, Willard Cillilan and Charles Fogle, from the field, and Harold Postman, assistant to Cummings, from the home office. On Jan. 8, a luncheon will be held at which a number of home office executives and personnel will meet the field men.

1947 Output Put at Billion In Radio and Television Sets

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—The radio-television industries produced sets valued at about $1,000,000,000 in 1947 and is looking forward to bigger sales next year, John Ballantyne, president of Philco Corp., said here.

The Philco executive noted that 16,500,000 receiving sets and radio-phonographs were produced in 1947 with a total retail value of $900,000,000, while 175,000 television sets were built worth $100,000,000.

Ballantyne said 1948 should set the production of at least 500,000 television sets with a value of over $200,000,000.

American Broadcasting Gets Four New Vice-presidents

Four new vice-presidents have been elected by the board of American Broadcasting, Mark Woods, ABC president, announces.

They are: Ivor Kenway, vice-president in charge of advertising, promotion and research; Frank Marx, general engineering; Robert Saudek, public affairs, and Thomas Velotta, in charge of news and special events. The new vice-presidents will report to Robert E. Kintner, executive vice-president.

Columbia, RKO SOPEG Hearings

Hearing dates for Columbia and RKO Radio in their wage dispute with the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, have been set by the American Arbitration Association. Columbia hearings come up Jan. 5 and RKO Radio Jan. 14. Meanwhile Loew's hearing resumes today and United Artists on Jan. 17.

E-L Shipping to Transport Co.

OMAHA, Jan. 1.—Film Transport Co. has taken over the shipping department of Eagle-Lion Films here.

Import Favor Ends

(*Continued from page* 1)

plied to old rates, the cost of British film imports is increased by a fraction of a cent despite the new lower over-all rate for all nations. Including the sales tax, it will now cost $22.50 to bring each thousand feet of negative film into Canada from any country for printing purposes.

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

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VOL. 63. NO. 2 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1948 TEN CENTS

$5,586,877 in New Canadian Construction

More Than Double the Previous Year's Total

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—New theatre building and additions during 1947 climbed to $5,586,877 in cost last year, the Canadian government reports.

New construction amounted to $4,049,175, and alterations and repairs cost $1,537,702, compared to $1,543,530 for new construction and $1,038,731 for alterations, for a total of $2,582,261 in the preceding year.

Sharp increases were registered in all parts of Canada, including the following, with the preceding year's figures being given in brackets: Nova Scotia, $400,167 ($35,315); New Brunswick, $163,142 ($5,761); Quebec, $1,836,499 ($1,077,280); Ontario, $2,293,516 ($380,640); Manitoba, $53,308 ($22,738); Saskatchewan, $200,807 ($19,644); Alberta, $289,921 ($49,695); British Columbia, $348,927 ($954,299).

E-L Will Increase Its Ad Budget

DALLAS, Jan. 4.—Eagle-Lion Films will continue and expand its policy of sharing advertising and promotion costs, dollar for dollar, with all theatres over the normal house budgets on every major film released by the company, declared advertising-publicity director Max E. Youngstein, ad-

(Continued on page 7)

E-L Released 56 Features in '47

A total of 56 features were released by Eagle-Lion during 1947, according to A. W. Schwalberg, distribution vice-president.

Following is a breakdown of product handled: 23 black-and-white features made in Hollywood; one black-and-white made in Canada; two color features; one musical; six reissues of Edward Small "Screen Masterpieces"; 19 Westerns, and four J. Arthur Rank features.

Film Industry Aided In Canada Austerity By UK's 'Progress'

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—In a statement on current conditions in Canada, J. Earl Lawson, president of Odeon Theatres of Canada, has asserted that in view of the progress of British films in this country, the position of the film industry now, in the face of curtailment of purchases from the United States, is more fortunate than it would have been at any previous period.

Until 1945 virtually all entertainment had to be paid for with U. S. dollars, he pointed out, adding that, in the light of British ability to supply, the same situation would apply to theatre equipment. Canadian production would be stimulated toward the less specialized types of theatre equipment and furnishings, he said.

Touching on the construction of new theatres, Lawson declared that the program to meet public demand is "much larger than is either practical or possible under present conditions."

Weather Hit Grosses Up to 25 Per-cent

Weather over New Year's and at the weekend continued to be an arch-foe of theatre business, repeating the post-Christmas assault at New York first-run and subsequent-run box-offices. Where a record snowfall routed grosses in the first instance, a barrage of rain and sleet did the same in the second. First-runs, it was said, could have done up to 25 per cent greater business on New Year's eve and New Year's day had the elements not interfered.

However, everything considered, business was not deplorable. Radio City Music Hall, with its Christmas stage presentation and "Good News" on the screen; the Paramount, with "Where There's Life" and Vic Damone topping a stage bill, and the Rivoli, screening "Captain from Castile," all had comparatively gratifying attendances.

Supreme Court Will Hear ATA, CSA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The U. S. Supreme Court has allotted one and one-half hours for arguments of two intervenors, American Theatres Association and Confederacy of Southern Associations, in the New York industry anti-trust suit appeals scheduled for hearing during the week of Feb. 9.

The time is to be divided equally

(Continued on page 7)

GWTW Tops M-G-M Reissue Grosses

Heavy grosses on some of its reissues are reported by M-G-M. Leading is "Gone With the Wind," understood already to have pulled in $2,500,000 on its fourth trip to the nation's screens, with the total expected to hit between $4,000,000 and $5,000,000. "Rage in Heaven" and "The Great Waltz," each stand to gross $1,000,000.

Its practice of pre-testing pictures listed for pre-release is credited by M-G-M with the success of the reissues.

CEA, BOT Will Air Tax Talk Delays

LONDON, Jan. 4.—In addition to being girded for voicing strong opposition against British Board of Trade president Harold Wilson's proposal that Britain's producers be assisted through extended playing time, the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, when it meets with Wilson on Wednesday, will endeavor to impress him that there is ever-increasing danger in allowing delays to develop in the discussions between Motion Picture Association's F. W. Allport and Britain's Sir Wilfred Eady on a settlement of the *ad valorem* tax.

The CEA, when meeting with Wilson, will claim that 40 features is a more probable figure in determining what British studios will produce this year, thus attacking Wilson's estimate that 75 features will be made. Extended playing time at first-runs will necessarily skim the cream off business at the expense of second runs, the CEA will contend.

Treasury Admission Tax Study Delayed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—A Treasury Department study of admission taxes, originally scheduled for publication shortly after Jan. 1, has been indefinitely postponed, a Department official reveals. Effect of the postponement of the admission tax report is that Congress will probably have to make a decision on the tax without the benefit of the Treasury study.

He said that one expert working on the study had resigned and another key economist transferred to another assignment, causing the target date for the admission tax study to be pushed back two to three months.

Cripps Awaits U. S. Solution On Ad Valorem

On Basis of $20-Million Remittance Limitation

LONDON, Jan. 4.—With the British government seemingly still determined that remittances to the U. S. shall not exceed 5,000,000 pounds ($20,000,000) annually under an *ad valorem* tax settlement, Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is said to be awaiting the presentation of a settlement formula and is convinced that it is not beyond American ingenuity to arrive at one.

Although the American Motion Picture Association's F. W. Allport is still awaiting further

(Continued on page 7)

Resumption of 'Red' Probe Seen Delayed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Hollywood is no longer getting top billing in the House Un-American Activities Committee's plans.

In a five-point program outlined by chairman J. Parnell Thomas for the coming session of Congress, including Communist activity in the Panama Canal Zone and the spread of fascism, the resumption of Hollywood hearings "will depend on other developments,"

(Continued on poge 7)

Legion Citations for Friendly Witnesses

Hollywood, Jan. 4.—"Friendly" witnesses in the recent Un-American Activities Committee hearings in Washington will receive citations from the American Legion at the Hollywood Legion Stadium on Tuesday.

Honored will be Louis B. Mayer, Jack Warner, Leo McCarey, Sam Wood, Walt Disney, Dore Schary, Gary Cooper, Adolphe Menjou, Jack Moffitt, Ayn Rand, Rupert Hughes, James K. McGuinness, Robert Taylor, Morrie Ryskind, Emmet Lavery, Ronald Reagan, George Murphy, Robert Montgomery, Roy Brewer, Berthold Brecht, Lela Rogers, Fred Niblo, Jr., and Richard Macaulay.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M distribution vice-president, will leave New York on Wednesday for a Florida vacation.

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HERB DRAKE, vice-president and director of promotion for MacFadden Publications, left New York at the weekend for Hollywood, where he will make arrangements for the *Photoplay Magazine* gold medal banquet to be held there on Feb. 16.

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EDWARD T. CHEYFITZ, assistant to Motion Picture Association president ERIC A. JOHNSTON, left Washington yesterday for Hollywood, where he will remain for several weeks.

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H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations chief, will leave here tomorrow for Springfield, Ill., to attend the convention of the United Theatre Owners of Illinois on Jan. 8-9.

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BENJAMIN THAU, M-G-M studio executive, has been hospitalized on the Coast following an automobile accident.

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WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M exploitation head, is due back in New York today from Ogunquit, Me.

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CHARLES SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox director of advertising-publicity, is due here today from Miami.

•

BEN GOETZ, M-G-M production chief in England, is due here shortly from London.

Johnson of MGM's New York Exchange

Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Louis Johnson, in charge of M-G-M's service department at the New York-New Jersey exchange, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Astoria, L. I. He had been in ill health for several months and succumbed to a heart attack Friday at his home in Astoria.

Johnson joined the old Goldwyn company 28 years ago and moved over to M-G-M with the merger in 1924. For 10 years he had been president of the Film Employes Exchange, Local B-51, resigning last October due to poor health. Johnson is survived by his widow, Adele; two daughters, Mrs. Peter Di Napoli and Mrs. George Cervenko, and a son, Louis, Jr.

Frank Ryan, Family Die in Train Crash

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 4. — Director Frank M. Ryan and his wife and three children were among the 14 killed in the New Year's Day Missouri train wreck, it was announced here.

The Universal director started in Hollywood as a gag man and writer and began directing in 1942. Among his pictures were "Can't Help Singing," "So Goes My Love" and "Patrick the Great."

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

NOW that the organized industry is showing evidence of active concern over its public relations there is some possibility that during this new year attention may be given to conditions within the industry, most especially within the exhibition branch, which contribute to—when they are not wholly responsible for — inter-industry conflicts damaging to the public's impressions and opinions of the institution of the motion picture.

Not once but several times individuals or organizations within the industry have taken their grievances to the public by way of paid newspaper space.

Theatre screens in all parts of the country have been used of late to inform the public that advanced admission prices are imposed upon the exhibitor by producers and distributors and are not the voluntary policy of theatres exhibiting such pictures.

Local and regional newspapers carry stories of the attacks upon industry policies and practices by exhibitor convention orators.

Constant publicity is given around the land to a never-ending series of court actions and the accompanying charges by members of the industry against other members.

•

The continuing conflict between segments of the exhibition branch of the industry, and between it and other branches of the industry, constitute an ancient and continuing source of injurious publicity for the whole industry.

Perhaps, by its very nature, it is an incurable ailment. If so, that should be determined by competent and serious study.

Certainly, it is important enough to warrant investigation by the Motion Picture Association's newly organized public relations committee. With Nate J. Blumberg, an able and experienced theatre operator, as well as head of a producing and distributing company, serving as chairman of that committee, it would seem that it is most fortunately constituted to undertake such a study.

If the causes of conflict within exhibition's ranks and between them and other industry branches cannot be eliminated, perhaps they can at least be reduced in number and seriousness.

That, too, is most desirable.

Exhibition, itself, should be willing to join in such an endeavor.

•

There is little basis for any hope of exhibitor unity, however desirable that may be from both an industry and a public relations viewpoint.

There is, however, a very large area of interest and activity within which all of exhibition could, if it were so minded, find common cause without sacrificing individuality.

Federal and local admission taxes, censorship and all manner of legislation affecting exhibition, music performing license fees, industry public relations which affect theatre attendance —these and many more are problems which would be far more effectively confronted and dealt with by united exhibitor action than, as now, by the rival and divergent attentions of divided exhibition.

A common approach to problems such as these does not require the elimination from the scene of any exhibitor organization. It requires nothing more than the honest leadership and cooperation of the existing organizations.

If that could be had a signal contribution would be made not only to the best interests of exhibition itself, but to the public relations of the whole industry, as well.

And once begun, it is not unreasonable to believe that such cooperative experience could lead ultimately to new and more effective approaches to exhibitor and to exhibitor-distributor harmony on the sharper-edged problems in the realm of trade practices.

There will be no beginning as long as any segment of exhibition regards itself as separate and distinct from other segments. That is a destructive and hopeless belief that breeds nothing but more and greater dissensions and heals no existing ones. It maintains that segment in an armed camp opposed to the industry of which it is a part.

It is the responsibility of the organized industry to eliminate, insofar as it is able, whatever lends credence to that belief.

Perhaps the public relations committee could start there.

Newsreel Parade

TWO of the reels are devoted (erly has tirely to sport highlights of 1947 and a third deals exclusively with the year's news events. The remaining two reels covered such up-to-the-minute events as the Miami train wreck, New York City digging out of the snowstorm, sports and fashions. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 37—Highlights of the year in sports.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 235—Sports review of the year.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 38—New York digs out. Miss Truman meets the press. Maharajah of Jaipur honored at jubilee. Football.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 105—Jap war leaders await crimes trial. Oriental jubilee celebrated amid splendor of India. Miami train wreck. French honor Joseph H. Seidelman, Universal International president, (U-I foreign sales subsidiary). Spanish models display new fashions. Twelve puppies in record litter. Midget car demonstrated. Football.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 40—Roundup of 1947.

Services Held for Gus Schlesinger

Gus Schlesinger, for years an industry figure in foreign sales most of which he spent as general manager of foreign sales for Warner Brothers until illness forced his retirement, died Thursday night at his home in Orange, N. J.

Funeral services were held yesterday at the Goldsticker Funeral Parlor in Newark. He is survived by two brothers, Leon and Mayer and a sister, Flora.

Excess Profits Tax Is Ended in Canada

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—The advent of 1948 marked the end of the Canadian excess profits tax on earnings. Elimination of the tax comes as a boon to the Dominion's film industry, which, like others, was compelled to surrender 15 per cent of its excess profits during 1947.

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Starring **VIVIEN LEIGH**

with **Ralph Richardson • Kieron Moore**

Directed by JULIEN DUVIVIER

The Lost Illusion

Starring

Ralph Richardson • Michele Morgan

Directed by CAROL REED

Based on a story by Graham Greene

Bonnie Prince Charlie

TECHNICOLOR

Starring **DAVID NIVEN**

Directed by ANTHONY KIMMINS

Screen Play Written by Clemence Dane

Cyrano de Bergerac

Starring **ORSON WELLES**

From a script by BEN HECHT

The Devil's Delight

Starring **CARY GRANT**

Produced and Directed by CAROL REED

Script by Alan Melville

I Will Repay

A PIMPERNEL STORY

Starring **REX HARRISON**

Based on a story by the Baroness Orczy

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News Briefs

NEW officers of the Motion Picture Associates will be installed here today at a luncheon in the Hotel Astor.

Heading the list of those to be inducted will be Arthur Mayer, president; Morris Sanders, first vice-president; Bob Fannon, second vice-president; Harold Klein, secretary; Saul Trauner, treasurer; David Burkan, sergeant-at-arms. Principal speaker will be William F. Rodgers, Loew distribution vice-president.

Bernhard Off to Hollywood to Inspect Studio and Confer

Joseph Bernhard, president of Film Classics, Inc., will leave here today for Hollywood where he will inspect Film Classics' Studio portion of Nassour Studios and confer with several independent producers on future film releases. The company plans to distribute at least 14 new pictures in 1948, with more than half of them in color. Four already set for release this month are "Furia," "Woman in the Night," "For You I Die," and "Discovery."

It was recently announced that FC would make the studio available for all production activity in which the company is interested.

Harry Kaufman Returning to Industry with Cardinal Pictures

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—Harry Kaufman, who was general sales manager of Monogram of Canada, until his retirement 18 months ago to enter another business, is returning to the film industry, here, becoming an executive of Cardinal Pictures, recently organized by Harry J. Allen, former president of Producers Releasing Corp. of Canada. Cardinal is handling releases of Screen Guild, Film Classics and the Devonshire Group of British pictures.

Offices Close Early Due to Difficult Transportation

Due to inclement weather here most film industry offices observed a short work-day on Friday. Weather-inspired transportation difficulties were, in the main, responsible for the early closings. Scores of workers remained at home all day for the same reason.

Republic home office workers could not enter their building because of a five-alarm fire in an adjacent building.

United Artists to Handle New Peskay Production

United Artists has acquired world-wide distribution rights to "The Angry God," an Edward Peskay production, it was announced here, by Gradwell L. Sears, UA president. It is said to be the first made in the new Fullcolor process. Directed by Van Campen Heilner, it features an all-native Mexican and Indian cast.

SEC Returning to Capital

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The Securities and Exchange Commission, which was transferred to Philadelphia early in the war, starts its return to Washington tomorrow. SEC officials estimate that it will take some three weeks to complete the move. The Commission will be housed in the old Reconstruction Finance Corp. buildings.

MPA Church Series Goes Into Release

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 4.—Release of the first two of a new non-profit series of pictures to be known as "In the Eyes of the Church" was announced here yesterday by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association.

Launching the series, designed to meet the need for applying basic religious concepts to contemporary situations and important national and international issues, are "The Nuremburg Trials, the Churches and International Justice," a 29-minute subject, and "The People in the Atomic Age," running 18 minutes. The 16mm. films were made by RKO Pathe with the cooperation of officials of the MPA, especially that of Arthur H. DeBra, director of the association's community relations department. Production was financed by a gift from the G. F. Jewetts of this city. Distribution will be handled by the Religious Film Forum Foundation of Spokane.

The project, begun seven years ago, was interrupted by the war. The films will be available to all churches as well as non-church discussion groups.

"The Motion Pictures Association is keenly aware of the need for the application of moral and religious principles to problems of contemporary life," Johnston said. "This series is another evidence of the desire of the motion picture industry to contribute in a practical way to the welfare of humanity and to the preservation of the spiritual and moral values upon which civilization depends."

Cripps Awaits

(*Continued from page* 1)

instructions from MPA president Eric Johnston before resuming his settlement conferences with Britain's Sir Wilfred Eady, a British treasury official said at the weekend that it is expected another meeting between the two will take place this week.

A new American approach toward a settlement—an approach based on the British government's remittances stipulation—is said to be all that is holding up the resumption of American film imports. Up to now, it is said, MPA has demanded a cancellation of the 75 per cent tax as a prerequisite to further negotiation, and British government spokesmen, surprised at this, point out that it is a "curious demand" that the British government alter a law at the insistence of a non-governmental trading association. The British government, evidently, is determined not to accept dictation from the MPA.

Government spokesmen assert that the door is open to discussion of any tax alternative embracing the condition that remittances do not exceed 5,000,000 pounds.

'Red' Probe Delay

(*Continued from page* 1)

according to Thomas. Top priority will be given to the Canal Zone and fascism investigations this month, he said.

Although the committee has completed its research on Communism in Hollywood for the previously announced resumption of its probe, it appears now that no early reopening of the film hearing is planned.

Herald - Fame Poll Highlighted in UK

London, Jan. 4.—Results of the annual *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* "top ten money-making stars" poll of British exhibitors has stirred hitherto unequalled nationwide interest here, with newspapers emphasizing that British stars and films dominate Britain's screens, and with the British Broadcasting Company making repeated announcements of the poll's outcome.

Clinchy To Speak At NCCJ Luncheon

Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, will be the principal speaker at a luncheon of the amusements division of the Conference tomorrow at the Waldorf Astoria, it was announced by Spyros P. Skouras, president of Twentieth Century-Fox and chairman of the motion picture committee for "Brotherhood Week," which is being observed Feb. 22-29.

Dr. Clinchy, who recently returned from a European tour will discuss his experiences in the American Zone in Germany and other countries where he was engaged in furthering the work of the International Council of Christians and Jews. Skouras will tell the motion picture executives, headed by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, how they can do their part in supporting Brotherhood Week. J. Robert Rubin, vice-president of Loew's, Inc., a chairman of the Amusements Division of the Conference and David Weinstock, of Raybond Theatres, is campaign head.

E-L To Increase Ads

(*Continued from page* 1)

dressing a weekend regional sales meeting here.

Speaking before an audience which included Herman Beiersdorf, recently promoted to the post of Western sales manager, and sales and executive personnel from New Orleans, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Atlanta, Charlotte and Dallas, Youngstein renewed the company's pledge not to cut ad budgets in any way, but rather to augment and increase all sums allocated for promotion to any amount deemed suitable for any individual engagement.

The two-day meeting, which was also addressed by Harold S. Dunn, assistant general sales manager, and Frank Soule, in charge of branch operations, was devoted to a discussion of sales policy on forthcoming Eagle-Lion releases, with special emphasis on "T-Men," for which the largest promotional budget in the company's history has been allocated.

Appeal Theatre Ban

SAN JOSE, Cal., Jan. 4.—An appeal has been filed with the county board of supervisors by T. and D. Jr. Enterprises, to rescind a decision by the county planning commission denying the circuit a permit to build a $1,000,000 multiple amusement place. T. and D. intended to erect a drive-in theatre and recreation and shopping center, but landowners adjacent to the tract claimed construction of the enterprise jeopardized the value of homes in the neighborhood.

Mason Again No. 1 At UK Box-Offices

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 4.—For the fourth consecutive year, James Mason has been voted No. 1 British "Money-Making Star" in the annual *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* poll of British exhibitors. In the latest poll, however, Mason was somewhat shaken from his position of 1946 when he led the international classification. Now he places second to Bing Crosby, America's four-time and current top money-making favorite.

British exhibitors' voting for the 1947 "top ten" produced marked divergence from the previous poll. Only five stars, including Mason, successfully held esteem during the last 12 months. Of the survivors, Anna Neagle is up from fifth to second place; Margaret Lockwood is down from second to third; John Mills is up from eighth position to fourth, and Stewart Granger is down from third to fifth place.

Mason's latest is "The Upturned Glass." Miss Neagle had to her credit appearances in "Courtneys of Curzon Street" and "Piccadilly Incident." Miss Lockwood was in three: "Jassy," "The White Unicorn" and "Hungry Hill." Mills starred in "So Well Remembered" and "Great Expectations," and Granger appeared in "Caravan," and the recently released "Captain Boycott."

Newcomers to the list were Patricia Roc, sixth place; Michael Wilding, seventh; Deborah Kerr, eighth; Robert Newton, ninth, and Trevor Howard, tenth. Miss Neagle ran third in the international division, and was followed, in the order named, by: Miss Lockwood, Bette Davis, Mills, Alan Ladd, Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Bob Hope.

In the Western stars division, the British exhibitors picked Roy Rogers first (he has been first with U. S. exhibitors in the last five polls); Gene Autry, second, and William Boyd third, followed, respectively, by Randolph Scott, Gary Cooper, Ray Milland, Johnny Mack Brown, John Wayne, Henry Fonda and Fred MacMurray.

J. Arthur Rank's new documentary, "This Modern Age," place first in the British selection of the 10 best short subjects of the year. Others, running from second to tenth, in order, were: Walt Disney cartoons, March of Time, Crime Does Not Pay, Three Stooges comedies, Pathe Pictorials, Guess What?, Technicolor cartoons, FitzPatrick Traveltalks, and Speaking of Animals.

Supreme Court

(*Continued from page* 1)

between the two, giving each 45 minutes for argument. That brings to nine and one-half hours the total allotted by the Supreme Court for argument of the appeals, five hours having been allocated to defendant companies and three to the government, previously.

The feeling here is that organizations seeking to appear as *amici curiae* are not likely to be granted any time for oral argument, even though their briefs may be accepted by the court. Among the latter groups are Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers and the Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations.

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 3 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1948 TEN CENTS

Holiday Week Grosses Here Hit Seriously

Expected Receipts Cut 20-40% By Bad Weather

The Christmas - through - New Year's week, ordinarily a peak prosperity-plus period for New York's Times Square theatres produced grosses which were barely average by non-holiday standards. Usually during the holiday those houses expect a 20 to 40 per cent increase over normal. This year the record 25.8-inch snowfall which blanketed the city and environs on Dec. 26, and which was followed less than a week later by an ice storm, found the

(*Continued on page 3*)

Cut in Canadian Excise Tax Expected

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—The Canadian government may examine its whole position in regard to excise taxes before the next budget, forecasts having been heard here that some tax relief may be forthcoming this year. Excise taxes, including the amusement tax, brought in over $17,000,000 in 1946-47 to the Federal government.

Last year theatrical circles were somewhat surprised that no action was taken by the government to lessen the tax, the latter concentrating almost exclusively in eliminating or reducing income taxes. With a substantial surplus now a certainty for this fiscal year and action on excise taxes already overdue, it is believed that relief in this respect may be on its way.

Arraign Ten Friday; New Probe Likely

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Justice David A. Pine today refused to reconsider his ruling of Dec. 15 that the 10 Hollywood men cited for contempt during the House Un-American Activities Committee's hearings must appear here for arraignment on Friday instead of on the date of trial. Trial is expected to be set for late this month or early in February.

Defense attorneys had asked the District Court last Friday to postpone the arraignment. After Pine's action today, defense lawyer Robert Kenny

(*Continued on page 3*)

Disney Profits Up; New Selling Plans

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 5.—Net profit of Walt Disney Productions, after all charges, amounted to $307,075 in the year ended Sept. 27, 1947, compared with $199,602 in 1946, Roy O. Disney, company president, reported here today. The 1947 net was equal after providing for preferred dividends, to 43 cents a share on the 652,840 shares of outstanding common stock. In 1946 net income was equal, after preferred dividends, to 26 cents a share on the common.

Current obstacles to "business as usual" in many countries have caused the company to initiate alternative methods of marketing abroad, Disney stated. One alternative plan is to sell outright to distributors in foreign countries, for an immediate dollar consideration, the right to distribute Disney products in a given territory for a fixed period of years. RKO Radio distributes Disney product.

Progress is being made in this direction, it was said. It is expected that this change in sales policy will, to a considerable extent, offset loss of income from abroad.

Commenting on 1948 releasing

(*Continued on page 3*)

NCA Disavows MPF; Terms Plan 'Vague'

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 5.—Holding the Motion Picture Foundation plan to be "vague" and confusing, the board of directors of North Central Allied today unanimously disapproved the project and went on record as being unwilling to participate in it.

Stanley Kane, NCA executive director, said the idea had "no support whatever" here and added: "We want no part of it."

Adolph Zukor's 75th Birthday Tomorrow

Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of Paramount, will observe his 75th birthday tomorrow.



Adolph Zukor

Zukor, who is one of the "founding fathers" of the industry, has been internationally known as "Hollywood's Ambassador of Good Will," having for several decades during his 35 years in the business made numerous trips abroad. On Jan. 10, 1947, when he and Mrs. Zukor celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, they received thousands of congratulatory messages from every part of the world in which the industry is represented.

High Court Agrees To MPTOA Filing

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The Supreme Court today agreed to let the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America file an *amicus curiae* brief in the Paramount *et al* case but denied it the right to argue the case before the court orally. So far, the court has permitted two intervenors and three *amicus curiae* briefs in the antitrust suit against the majors.

Argument in the Government's case against Scophony was set for next week, probably Tuesday.

Denmark Ban Off; Sweden Norway Yield

MPA-Scandinavia 1-Year Deal Precludes a Tax

American film companies have vacated their ban on shipment of Hollywood product to Denmark and also have come to terms with Norway and Sweden, Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, announced yesterday through the MPA office here.

The new agreements, which were negotiated by Gerald M. Mayer, chief of the MPA's international division, during his recent visit in Scandinavia, are described by Johnston as meeting the problem overseas without one of the three countries resorting to a tax.

Amount of money U. S. companies may remit to their home offices from all three countries is termed by Mayer in his report to Johnston as "the best

(*Continued on page 3*)

Del Giudice Visit Unofficial, U.K. Says

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 5.—Filippo Del Giudice is on his way to the United States to discuss a settlement of the ad valorem tax situation with American film chiefs on the authority of the British government, according to a statement made by the producer prior to his sailing aboard the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth*, and denied in some official quarters.

Both the British Treasury and the Board of Trade immediately denied

(*Continued on page 3*)

Industry Faces Favorable State Legislative Year

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Six state legislatures will open this week, leading off a small 1948 group, according to Jack Bryson, Motion Picture Association legislative specialist.

The Kentucky, Mississippi, and Rhode Island legislatures will convene tomorrow, with Massachusetts, New York and Missouri opening Wednesday.

According to advance reports, Bryson said, there will be no legislation unfavorable to the industry in any of these states, and there is a possibility that a bill may be introduced in Kentucky to repeal the state admission tax.

Call for Expansion Of M. P. Associates

Expansion of the activities of the Motion Picture Associates so that the industry may be able to better minister to its needy here was the keynote sounded at the annual installation luncheon of the organization at the Hotel Astor yesterday.

The appeal for increased membership to aid the MPA's welfare program was led by William F. Rodgers, M-G-M distribution vice-president. He said that to do its job properly the MPA needed a larger membership

(*Continued on page 3*)

Mundt Bill Given Senate Priority

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The Senate policy committee named the House-approved Mundt Bill as one of three pieces of priority legislation for consideration early this session. Passage is considered certain.

It has been hoped that the bill, authorizing the State Department's overseas information program, might be used as authority to help U. S. film

(*Continued on page 3*)

Personal Mention

GRADWELL L. SEARS, United Artists president, and GEORGE J. SCHAEFER, Enterprise distribution head, have returned here from Hollywood.

•

RICHARD D. HAYES, Paramount salesman in Albany, N. Y., for more than 20 years, has resigned, effective Jan. 15, to enter another business. He will be honor guest at a dinner given by the Albany Variety Club of which he was a former officer.

•

DR. THOMAS H. JAMES and DR. GERTRUDE KORNFELD of Eastman Kodak's Rochester research laboratories, have been elected fellowships in the New York Academy of Sciences.

•

FILIPPO DEL GIUDICE, JAMES E. PERKINS, NOEL COWARD and WILLIAM PEREIRA are among the passengers on the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth*, which has left England for New York.

•

EDWARD CHEYFITZ, assistant to MPA president ERIC JOHNSTON, has arrived in Hollywood. JOHNSTON is expected there tomorrow.

•

GEORGE F. DEMBOW, National Screen vice-president and general sales manager, has returned to New York from Hollywood Beach, Fla.

•

JACK COHN, Columbia executive vice-president, has returned here from Miami Beach.

•

WALTER READE, JR. and MRS. READE have returned to New York from a vacation.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner vice-president and general sales manager, left here yesterday for Chicago.

A. Silverstone Heads 20th's Canada Sales

Arthur Silverstone, formerly joint assistant managing director of 20th Century-Fox in London, has been appointed Canadian division sales manager by Andy W. Smith, Jr., 20th-Fox's general sales manager. Silverstone, whose appointment is effective immediately, replaces Sydney Samson who is on an indeterminate leave of absence.

Silverstone will make his headquarters in Toronto. Smith left here yesterday to serve as host there today at a luncheon to introduce Silverstone to representatives of the Canadian trade.

New Canadian Firm .

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—Letters of patent have been issued by the Secretary of State to Palmer Pictures Corp. as a private company with a head office at Montreal.

New Post for Ireton

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—Glenn Ireton has been named head of Renaissance Films English-speaking film operations.

News Briefs . . .

JULIUS KLEIN, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. yesterday lauded the action of the American Legion in honoring Americanism contributions of motion picture leaders.

Klein wired James F. O'Neill, national commander of the Legion: "The American Legion's constructive action in honoring positive contributions to Democracy of motion picture leaders will greatly hearten those who have always taken pride in the industry's devoted efforts to further doctrines of true Americanism." He added:

"Louis B. Mayer is particularly representative of the high American ideals that have always motivated the leadership of this great industry."

A score of Hollywood leaders and talent will receive the Legion's citation today at ceremonies on the Coast.

Republic Holds Premiere In 'Frisco to Aid C.A.R.E.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 5.—Before a capacity audience of high-ranking military and civic officials as well as consular representatives of 14 European nations served by C.A.R.E., Republic tonight held the first film premiere of the year at the State Theatre, here, with the playing of "The Flame." Proceeds from the premiere, which had all the fanfare of a typical Hollywood opening, have been given to C.A.R.E. Arrangements for the opening were made through the cooperation of Herbert J. Yates, Republic president, and Jerry Zigmond, Western division manager for Paramount Theatres.

Bell and Howell's Common Jumps from 60 cents to $4.80

CHICAGO, Jan. 5. — With sales at a record peace-time high, Bell & Howell Co.'s 1947 earnings are expected to approximate $4.80 a common share compared with 69 cents in 1946.

Having overcome the almost paralyzing effects of the 1946 shortage of essential parts, the company, one of the nation's leading producers of motion picture camera and projection equipment, is expected to report 1947 sales of about $18,000,000, compared with $10,300,000 in 1946. With profit in the last quarter believed to have maintained the average established in the three previous quarters, the year-end income should be over $2,300,000 compared with $442,945 a year ago.

New Kay Exchange Managers Named in New Orleans and D.C.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 5.—Robert E. Helms is the new manager of Kay Films for New Orleans. Helms was formerly with RKO Radio and Universal; he was with RKO Radio from 1922-1947. He has moved here from Dallas.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. — Harry Cohen, formerly with M-G-M, has assumed the managership of the Washington Kay Film Exchange, according to announcement by Ike and Harry Katz, Kay officials, who visited the office and inducted Cohen. Jack Eskridge will assist.

ARBITRATION sessions in the wage dispute between Loew's and the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild wound up at the weekend at American Arbitration Association headquarters here. The board ruled that both parties must submit briefs in writing by Jan. 17, after which it will hand down a decision.

Final United Artists hearing will be held on Jan. 17, Columbia hearings are set for Jan. 7-8; RKO Radio, Jan. 14-16; Republic, Jan. 26-27 and Jan, 29-30; Paramount, Feb. 2 and other days during that week; 20th Century-Fox, Feb. 9-13, and National Screen Service, Feb. 16-17 and Feb. 19-20.

Stern and Cummings Will Open MGM Meeting Today

First of the three-day M-G-M field auditors meetings will get under way here today at the Astor Hotel with Charles K. Stern, Loew's assistant treasurer, and Alan F. Cummings, in charge of exchange operations, jointly conducting the sessions.

In attendance will be Harold Postman, assistant to Cummings; John J. Ash, Charles Bell, Oliver C. Broughton, Carl Gentzel, Willard Gillilan, Arthur Sklar, Edward Urschel, Harry A. Simons and Charles Fogle. William F. Rodgers, distribution vice-president, will be on hand for tomorrow's session. On Thursday, a number of home office executives will attend a get-together luncheon.

Ask to Raise Damage Claim as Trial Opens

BUFFALO, Jan. 5.—Trial of a suit for damages which one Olean, N. Y., theatre claims it suffered during the last six years of a 17-year fight against producers and distributors opened today before a jury and Federal judge Harold P. Burke. The complaint set the amount of damage at $163,000, but as the trial opened William A. Gray, Philadelphia attorney, asked that the plaintiffs, Bordonaro Bros. Theatres, Inc. of Olean, be permitted to raise the amount to $300,000. The court reserved decision.

Gray said that he will show how the plaintiffs were forced to compete with theatres controlled by Warner Brothers.

'U' Sales Drive for Daff's Anniversary Headed by Cohn

Distribution forces of Universal International Films, Inc., will launch a 20-week worldwide "Daff Anniversary Sales Drive" on Jan. 11, concluding May 29, in honor of Alfred E. Daff, foreign sales vice-president.

Ben Cohn, home office executive, will be captain of the drive, which will mark Daff's 28 years with "U."

Pickford Heads Children's Drive

Mary Pickford will launch the campaign of the "Canadian Appeal for Children," sponsored jointly by the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO and the United Nations Appeal for Children, thereby setting in motion a worldwide drive for $100,000,000 to further the work of the United Nations agencies.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
M-G-M's
"GOOD NEWS"
June ALLYSON • Peter LAWFORD
Patricia Marshall • Joan McCracken
In TECHNICOLOR
GREAT CHRISTMAS STAGE SHOW

BOB HOPE
SIGNE HASSO
WM. BENDIX
in "WHERE THERE'S LIFE" A Paramount Picture
in Person STAN KENTON And His Orchestra JUNE CHRISTY Ezra VIC DAMONE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
JOHN WAYNE · LARAINE DAY in
TYCOON
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

IT'S GOT THAT ACADEMY AWARD LOOK!
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY LORETTA DAVID
GRANT · YOUNG · NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St

The THEATRE GUILD presents the RKO RADIO PICTURE
"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA"
TWICE DAILY 2:30 and 8:30 PM
3 PERFORMANCES SUNDAY at 2:00, 5:15 and 8:30 PM
RESERVED SEATS ONLY
GOLDEN THEATRE 45th St. W. of B'way

WALT DISNEY'S
Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

CAPTAIN from CASTILE
TECHNICOLOR
TYRONE POWER • 20th CENTURY-FOX
Doors Open 8:30 A.M.
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

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M. J. Meehan Dead, Owned K-A-O Shares

Funeral services for M. J. Meehan, former Wall Street broker who for years owned a majority of the preferred stock of Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corp., were held at St. Vincent Ferrer Church here yesterday. Meehan, who was 56 years old, was stricken with pneumonia on New Year's Day and died last Friday.

During the 1920's his spectacular trading in Radio Corporation of America stock reportedly netted him a large fortune.

Max Cohn, Brother Of Harry and Jack

Funeral services will be held here today at Riverside Memorial Chapel for Maxwell (Max) Cohn, Columbia short subject producer, who died in New York Saturday. He is survived by the widow, Rita; two daughters, Mrs. Leonora Rosenstiel and Mrs. Judith Wolff, and three brothers, Harry Cohn, president of Columbia; Jack Cohn, executive vice-president, and Nat Cohn, New York division manager.

Ray C. Hickman

MARIETTA, O., Jan. 5.—Ray C. Hickman, 52, co-owner of the Washington Theatre Co., this city, died here last Friday. He had been in the theatre business for 30 years, having started with his own Auditorium Theatre here and later formed a partnership with Mort Shea. In addition to the widow he leaves a son, Capt. Jack Hickman, in the Army in Germany, and a daughter.

Friedland Stricken

CLEVELAND, Jan. 5.—Hyman O. Friedland of the Alhambra Theatres was stricken with a heart attack upon his return home from the theatre New Year's Eve and from which he failed to recover.

May Turn First-Run

CLEVELAND, Jan. 5.—The Fairmont Theatre, 1,600-seat de luxe house located in a residential area, is negotiating with distributors for first-runs, to play simultaneously with downtown houses.

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Del Giudice

(*Continued from page* 1)

that Del Giudice had spoken to either Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, or Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade. Wilson added that the producer had approached officials suggesting he might find a tax solution in America. Del Giudice was then told that the board would be unable to "give assurance or accept any responsibility that his American negotiations will be acceptable to the British government." Wilson, saying that the producer could bring back any suggestion he liked, added: "anybody can do that."

Del Giudice explicitly said he had discussed the matter with Cripps, in consequence of which he proposes to outline further variation of a barter plan whereby Americans and British would respectively retain 75 per cent profits from the screening of each other's product.

Statements in the *Daily Mail* attributed to Del Giudice said that following the producer's American talks the Motion Picture Association would cable instructions to the MPA's F. W. Allport enabling the latter to implement the discussions here.

The statements evoked a furore in the entire film trade here, with the pointed question asked as to why the British government had given virtual plenipotentiary powers to Del Giudice, who had been unable to find finances for his own pictures since his split with J. Arthur Rank, and in view particularly of the Parliamentary rumpus after disclosure of earlier talks with Cripps.

Expressions of opinion by industry spokesmen here as to whether Del Giudice's proposed barter plan would be in violation of the American distributors' embargo on England were not available last night.

Scandinavian Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

possible deal under the present difficult economic conditions."

None of the agreements exceeds one year. They became effective on Jan. 1. Mayer said the reason for this is because Sweden, Denmark and Norway are optimistic about 1948 and are encouraged especially over the Marshall Plan.

The deal with Denmark, which was confirmed by the Danish government yesterday, reopens a way for American films that has been closed since last October. At that time an impasse was reached between the U. S. industry and Denmark because the American companies refused to revise an industry-old practice and sell prints outright in the Denmark market. Denmark now has agreed to a rental basis and a remittance plan.

MPA Hits Charges by French Reds as 'Lies'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The Motion Picture Association today characterized as "typical Communist faking and lying" French Communist press reports that U. S. film companies are taking $20,000,000 a month profits out of France.

"The truth is," an MPA statement said, "that American motion picture companies are taking no dollars whatever out of France—not even for out-of-pocket expenses. No dollars have been remitted from that country since last March, when our member companies received a token payment on funds blocked in France since 1939."

M.P. Associates

(*Continued from page* 1)

along with a program allowing for expansion.

Arthur Mayer, incoming president of the MPA, pointing to the "unchallenged record of our industry wherever there was stress," told local leaders attending the luncheon that "our primary responsibility is to succor the sick and the needy in our own industry."

Fred Schwartz, outgoing president, reported that during his term the administration of welfare had been accelerated. He received a traveling bag, the presentation being made by Rodgers. Sam Rinzler was toastmaster.

Besides Mayer, officers installed were Morris Sanders, first vice-president; Bob Fannon, second vice-president; Harold Klein, secretary; Saul Trauner, treasurer, and David Burkan, sergeant-at-arms. Board members inducted were Leo Brecher, Matty Cahan, Jack Ellis, Si Fabian, Jack Farkas, Joseph Felder, Max Fellerman, Howard Levy, Ira Meinhardt, Charles Penser, Rinzler, Bert Sanford, Schwartz, Seymour Schussel and Cy Seymour.

On the dais in addition to those named were David Weinstock, William Heineman, Francis Harmon, Joseph R. Vogel, Robert Mochrie, George Skouras, Gus Eyssell, James Mulvey, William White, John O'Connor, Al Schwalberg, Ed Rugoff, Chick Lewis.

Arraign Cited Ten

(*Continued from page* 1)

said his clients would leave Hollywood by train tonight and arrive here early Friday.

Meanwhile, the exact time and place of the resumption of the House Committee's hearings on Hollywood will probably be announced in a radio address which committee chairman J. Parnell Thomas is scheduled to make Wednesday night, committee officials said today.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 5.—The 10 persons indicted for contempt of Congress entrained tonight for arraignment in Washington Friday, following the Federal Court's rejection of defense counsel's plea for postponement of the arraignment until the date of the trial.

Disney Profits Up

(*Continued from page* 1)

plans, Disney said the company expects to release by mid-summer the feature "Melody Time." This is substantially an all-cartoon picture featuring the musical talents of the Andrews Sisters, Buddy Clark, the Ken Darby Chorus, Dennis Day, the Dinning Sisters, Frances Langford, Freddy Martin, Roy Rogers, Ethel Smith, Sons of the Pioneers, Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, and others.

By Christmas of 1948 "So Dear to My Heart" should be released. This features Beulah Bondi, Bobby Driscoll, Burl Ives and Luana Patten. Disney also is planning to release 18 new short subjects during the year and will reissue the feature "Bambi."

Mundt Bill a 'Must'

(*Continued from page* 1)

companies get frozen funds out of Europe. A senate foreign relations subcommittee is scheduled to meet tomorrow in an attempt to broaden the bill to cover any such plan.

N. Y. Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

theatres drawing business that was 20 to 40 per cent below the expected.

However, the holidays had less of a hollow ring for some first-runs than it did for others. For example, Radio City Music Hall lived up to its reputation as the "showplace of the nation," weather notwithstanding. It reported business off only five to 10 per cent, and on the basis of $85,000 grossed New Year's Day through Sunday, anticipates a solid $133,000 for the fifth and final week of "Good News" plus its Christmas stage presentation. "The Paradine Case" will open there on Thursday.

'SRO' Signs Out Saturday

Meeting the weather equally well were the Rivoli, where, following a good first week, "Captain from Castile" is aiming for a reassuring $60,000 in the second week on the basis of $40,000 rung up Thursday through Sunday; the Roxy, where $70,000 for the four days is expected to pile up $95,000 in a second week for "Daisy Kenyon," and Lanny Ross on stage, and the Paramount, which looks good for $110,000 in a second week of "Where There's Life," compared to $105,000 grossed in the first.

Last Saturday night was described generally by all key theatre managements as being "exceptionally big," with "standing room only" the rule, and plenty of willing standees.

In contrast to the holiday experience of the four houses mentioned, both the Warner ("Voice of the Turtle"), and the Strand ("My Wild Irish Rose," and Herb Fields' orchestra on stage), suffered a 50 per cent-below-expectations holiday period. "Voice" is expected to bring in a poor $21,000 for a second week, and "Irish Rose" looks like a moderately good $56,000 second week.

Holiday week business was about 20 per cent off at the Victoria, where "The Fugitive" is due to gross $30,000 in a second week. The Palace was reportedly 25 per cent off, but a poor $22,000 first week for "Tycoon" is expected to brighten into a fair $23,000 for the second. "The Bishop's Wife," at the Astor, was off about 20 per cent, but the fourth week, on the basis of a very strong Saturday evening, is viewed as mounting to $51,000 from the third week's $47,000.

'Senator' Gross Rebounding

"The Senator Was Indiscreet," at the Criterion, is also on the rebound following the weather-menaced holiday week, and the first week's $32,000 is expected to be topped in the second by $8,000, Friday through Sunday having registered $25,000. "The High Wall," plus Tommy Dorsey and his band on stage at the Capitol, is due for a good $72,000 in a second week, compared to a relatively mild $73,071 for the first (holiday) week. "Body and Soul" appears to be holding up well at the Globe, with $25,000 expected to make the ninth week a good one. "Gentlemen's Agreement," at the Mayfair, made a gratifying showing during the holiday week and is due to produce $54,000 in its eighth week. At the Winter Garden, "The Exile" is on the way to a mild $30,000 for a second week, and at the Gotham, "Fabulous Texan" has an unimpressive $7,500 second week in store. Sixth week for "Nicholas Nickelby" at the Little Carnegie is bound for $6,000, and so is "I Know Where I'm Going" in its 20th week at the Sutton.



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ALL MIXED UP IN A STR

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COLUMBIA PICTURES

More page one news from U-I

"A Double Life"

[*Universal-International-Kanin*]

Distinguished Entertainment

Hollywood, Dec. 23

THE GREATEST performance in Ronald Colman's long career would be in itself enough to carry this Michael Kanin production to impressive grosses, but is not required to do so, since production, direction, script, and matching performances by Signe Hasso, Edmund O'Brien, Shelley Winters, Ray Collins, Philip Loeb and supporting players round out a powerful, fascinating, innately theatrical attraction which is sure to make its mark in any market. Strictly adult in subject and treatment, it is at once a character study, a literary work and a melodrama, and, in the aggregate, distinguished entertainment.

Colman portrays a famous stage actor, beloved by some who know him and despised by others, who co-stars in "Othello" with Miss Hasso, from whom he has been divorced for two years but with whom he is still in love. He concentrates on his characterization so profoundly that his own personality and conduct become indistinguishable by him from those to the insanely jealous Shakespearean nobleman who slays his wife in the play. His suspicion that Miss Hasso is in love with the play's press agent, O'Brien, leads him to the point of murdering her, but his own personality intervenes to the extent of diverting his murderous impulse to another girl with whom he has had a secret affair. When, by interesting complications and developments, the crime is traced to him and he is about to be arrested in mid-performance, he makes Othello's onstage suicide his own real one.

The script by Ruth Gordon and producer Kanin is an extremely well balanced and effective presentation of cause and effect, and George Cukor's masterly direction makes every scene and sentence of dialogue count importantly in the sum total.

Scenes from Shakespeare's "Othello" figure vitally and substantially in the film, but do not shunt the picture into the "arty" classification. By no means for children, the film is a quality job in every respect and a fine cinema experience for adults.

Running time, 103 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 4 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1948 TEN CENTS

Production at Capacity in 1948: Warner

12 Before WB Cameras In First Quarter

Warner Brothers will launch a "capacity" production schedule for 1948 with 12 pictures slated to go before the cameras in the first quarter of the year, Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production, announced yesterday.



Jack L. Warner

Although no total of releases for the year was mentioned, the Warner statement said that more than 40 pictures are in various stages of preparation now.

The list includes Cagney Productions' "The Stray Lamb" and "A Lion

(*Continued on page 6*)

Meet Here on MPF Financing Jan. 14

The Motion Picture Foundation's special finance committee, headed by Si Fabian, will meet for the first time on Jan. 14 in New York to determine methods of fund raising and to set up the financial administration of the Foundation.

The committee also includes Leonard Goldenson, Harold Field, Karl Hoblitzelle, Richard F. Walsh, Ted Curtis, Albert Warner, Arthur Schoenstadt and Fred Wehrenberg.

The MPF's program-and-scope

(*Continued on page 6*)

Goldstein Dep't. Is Eliminated by RKO

RKO Radio Pictures announced yesterday that "intra-organization economies have made necessary the elimination" of the post of Eastern studio representative, which has been held by Jack Goldstein for the past two years.

The company said that with the abandonment of Goldstein's depart-

(*Continued on page 6*)

WB Profit in '47 Was $22,094,000; $2,670,000 Rise

Warner Brothers' consolidated profit for the year ended Aug. 31, 1947, was $22,094,000, compared to the previous year's $19,424,000, Harry M. Warner, president, disclosed yesterday. The increase was $2,670,000.

Last year's profit was equivalent to $3.02 per share on 7,295,000 shares of outstanding common stock, compared with $2.62 per share on the 7,402,180 shares outstanding in the previous year.

Profits recorded for individual quarters of the year ended Aug. 31 last, before deducting income taxes, contingent liabilities and equity in undistributed foreign earnings, were: first, $11,603,000 (an increase of $2,786,000 over the corresponding previous year); second, $10,810,000 ($972,000 increase); third, $8,621,000 ($2,573,-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Would Cut Ticket, Equipment Taxes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Rep. Harold C. Hagan said today that either this week or next he would introduce a bill cutting the Federal theatre admission tax to 10 per cent.

Rep. Gordon L. McDonough today introduced a bill designed to abolish the 20 per cent tax on the manufacture of motion picture equipment produced by a company for its own use.

McDonough, who represents the Hollywood district, specifically cited the tax on Technicolor equipment as the type which his bill would remove.

Fitzgibbons Sees Bright Prospects

Toronto, Jan. 6.—"We look forward with great confidence to good business during 1948 because of the anticipated high level of payrolls and steady employment which is forecast by the continued great demand for building materials and all kinds of consumer and durable goods," states J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

UK May 'Sacrifice' Film Imports

LONDON, Jan. 6.—More severe British treatment of film imports, pointing to outright, unqualified sacrifice of U. S. and other foreign product, will be an inevitable result if the nation's critical dollar position does not take a turn for the better in the near future, according to official sources here.

A financial crisis of the first magnitude may grip Britain by April, it was said, if emergency financial aid is not en route here by then. Such a crisis would drive the British government to switch its trade toward self-sufficiency, a policy which would run counter to the European cooperation plans agreed on in Paris. Britain's dollar deficit is now estimated to be approximately $228,000,000.

The Labor Party cabinet is concerned now with balancing present plans against emergency aid coming some time in the future. The Treas-

(*Continued on page 6*)

'Arch' and Other Films to U. A. in Enterprise Pact

Following settlement of its contractual dispute with United Artists, Enterprise announced yesterday that it would deliver "Arch of Triumph" to U. A. next week for domestic distribution.

In addition, Enterprise will deliver to U. A. two other completed productions, "They Passed This Way" and "So This Is New York," fulfilling contractual commitments to the distributor. While this leaves Enterprise free to negotiate a new distribution deal, the company stated it has promised to deliver additional pictures to U. A. on a non-exclusive basis.

Moreover, it is understood that

(*Continued on page 4*)

Delay Thomas Probe For Trial Results

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—House Un-American Activities Committee Chairman Thomas said today that he would not resume the Hollywood investigation until after the trial of the first witness cited for contempt in the last committee hearings. This would make a resumption before mid- or late February unlikely.

The 10 Hollywoodites cited for contempt will be arraigned here Friday and presumably will be assigned for separate trials, with the first beginning

(*Continued on page 6*)

Aid to Films In Mundt Bill Seen Dropped

Blocked Funds May Be In Separate Measures

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee late tonight apparently had abandoned its attempt to broaden the Mundt Bill to include schemes to aid film companies and other information media get frozen funds out of Europe.

The subcommittee, which is scheduled to report to the full committee tomorrow, took this action for two reasons: Because it lacked enough information on the problem, and because it feared inclusion of such a provision would slow the passage of the bill, with its vital provisions for expanding the State Department's overseas information program.

All members of the subcommittee agreed that the problem of blocked currency deserved "full and early consideration" and some expressed the intention of introducing separate legislation on the matter, on which hearings could be held and all information brought out.

It was understood that the State

(*Continued on page 6*)

ATA Intervenes on 'Auction' Bids Only

Arguments of American Theatres Association counsel Thurman Arnold in ATA's plea in the appeal of the Government's New York trust suit will be confined to opposition to competitive bidding. The U. S. Supreme Court has already granted the ATA's request for oral argument on its plea for intervention at the appeal hearings which start on Feb. 9.

The Confederacy of Southern Associations, which adopted a parallel

(*Continued on page 4*)

NCCJ Film Unit Goal Is $200,000

A goal of $200,000 for the motion picture division of the National Conference of Christians and Jews was announced at a luncheon-meeting of the division at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here yesterday, at which Spyros P. Skouras, chairman, presided.

Culmination of the drive will be

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

MAX E. YOUNGSTEIN, Eagle-Lion advertising-publicity director, has returned to New York from sales meetings in Dallas.

•

PAUL WHITE, Western European sales manager for Selznick Releasing Organization, MRS. WHITE and ZOLTAN KORDA are among passengers due here today from Europe on the *SS Mauretania*.

•

A. J. BALABAN, executive director of the Roxy Theatre, here, and MRS. BALABAN have announced the engagement of their daughter, CHERRY, to HAROLD ROBINS of New York City and Spring Valley, N. Y.

•

MAX MENDEL, sales head for Film Classics of The Americas, a subsidiary of Film Classics, will leave here today for a business trip to Mexico, South and Central America.

•

JAMES VAN HORN, formerly in 20th Century-Fox's home office, New York, has become salesman in the New Haven branch.

•

AUSTIN KEOUGH, Paramount general counsel, is in New York Hospital for a physical check-up.

•

MILES SHEROVER, head of Sherover Enterprises, has left here for a business tour of South America.

•

REEVE O. STROCK, chief of recording engineering for Westrex, will leave here today for the Coast.

•

GENE FOWLER, JR., Universal-International producer, is in New York from the Coast.

4 Theatre Meetings For Jan. and Feb.

Four theatre owners' meetings are scheduled to be held this month and next.

United Theatre Owners of Illinois will meet tomorrow and Friday at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, Ill. Among those attending will be Fred Wehrenberg, chairman of Theatre Owners of America; Robert W. Coyne, executive director of TOA, and Herman Levy, general counsel.

The board of Tri-States Motion Picture Theatre Owners is scheduled to meet at the Chicsa Hotel, Memphis, Jan. 27. Coyne will be among those present.

Members of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina will assemble for their annual meeting at the Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte, on Feb. 1. The convention will run through Feb. 3. Ted Gamble, president of the TOA, Coyne and Levy will be on hand.

On Feb. 3 and 4 the Texas Theatre Owners will hold its annual convention at the Adolphus Hotel, Dallas. Attending will be Gamble and Coyne.

News Briefs . . .

GRADWELL L. SEARS, president of United Artists, has been invited by the Governor General of Canada and Viscountess Alexander to accompany Mary Pickford to dinner at Government House in Ottawa on Jan. 12, on the occasion of Miss Pickford's visit to Canada to launch the campaign of the Canadian Appeal for Children, sponsored jointly by the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO and the United Nations Appeal for Children.

World premiere of Miss Pickford's "Sleep, My Love" will be held at the Elgin Theatre, Ottawa following the dinner.

Agree to Discontinue Representations on Film

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Distributors of "The Burning Question" have entered into a stipulation with the Federal Trade Commission to discontinue certain representations concerning the picture, according to an FTC announcement.

They agree to stop representing that it is based on authentic data obtained from the files of the Bureau of Narcotics and Treasury Department; that it was filmed through the cooperation of the Bureau, or that it is endorsed by the Bureau or by parent-teachers associations. Distributors are listed as Harry G. Silverman, Harold Schwarz and Lillian Bulard, all of Dallas.

CBS Video Station Here Establishes "Air" Rate

Columbia Broadcasting's television station here, WCBS-TV, has begun charging for "air time" at the rate of $400 an hour, George L. Moskovics, commercial manager, has announced.

Since 1945 CBS has made no charge for video time, charging sponsors only for facilities. The new rate will remain in effect until June, 1948.

Crestview Sets Its First For Eagle-Lion Release

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6. — Crestview Productions, newly-organized producers, has set "Rampage," in Cinecolor, as its first production for Eagle-Lion release. "Rampage" is being directed by Lew Landers for co-producers Matthew Rapf and Jerry Briskin, heads of Crestview and sons of industry executives Harry Rapf and Samuel J. Briskin.

20th-Fox to Make Film In Mexico, Says Reachi

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 6.—Arrangements for 20th Century-Fox to make one and possibly more pictures in both English and Spanish in this country are announced by Santiago Reachi, president of Posa Films, S.A., upon his return here from Hollywood where he conferred with Joseph M. Schenck, 20th-Fox production executive.

Grovas Again Heads Mexican Producer Distributor Group

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 6.—Jesus Grovas, producer-distributor, has been re-elected president of the National Association of Producers and Distributors.

THE following 41 are being enrolled this month in the "25 Year Club" of Famous Players-Canadian Corp. at Toronto:

W. H. York, V. Zuana, W. B. Allen, M. Baader, A. E. Barber, M. M. McLean, F. Packenbusch, J. A. Bolinsky, W. A. Birchall, T. S. Daley, R. L. Downey, B. Geldsaler, T. C. Hoad, Evelina Holt, N. L. Jackson, H. C. Jarmain, F. L. Martin, A. J. Massey, G. Morrell, W. P. Wilson, W. G. Borland, C. E. Doctor, H. F. Thomson, A. E. Cauley, A. Dennison, Josephine Gray, H. L. Kennedy, G. H. Parker, C. Dilley, F. G. Doney, H. H. Eckert, E. P. Fields, E. B. Garrow, A. Fraser, J. Garvey, F. A. Moran, J. R. McLennan, T. A. Mascaro, H. Pervis, E. O. Smithies, J. V. Ward.

Livingston Heads SPG's New Slate of Officers

A new slate of officers has been elected to the Screen Publicists Guild, headed by Jeff Livingston of Universal-International, as president.

Other officers are: First vice-president, Paul Kamey, M-G-M; second vice-president, Edward Aaronoff, Warner Brothers; secretary, Frances Simon, Paramount, and treasurer, Richard Lederer, Columbia. All officers will be installed at a meeting tomorrow night at the Hotel Diplomat here.

Broidy Will Do a Series Of Shorts in Ansco Color

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Following reaction to Monogram's short subject Academy Award contender, "Climbing the Matterhorn," said to be the first commercial picture to be filmed in Ansco color, president Steve Broidy plans to film four short subjects during 1948 in Ansco color in scenic regions.

Film Classics of the Americas Is Incorporated at Albany

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 6.—Film Classics of the Americas, Inc., has been incorporated here to engage in the motion picture business. Incorporators are Joseph Bernhard, Eugene Arnstein and Sinclair Hatch, all of New York City. Hatch, Root and Barrett were the attorneys.

L. W. Schine's Son on His Own

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 6.—Darnell Theatre Co., of which Donald Schine is president and Elmer L. Lux, former RKO Radio manager in Buffalo, is vice-president, has leased the Rialto Theatre in Massena, near the Canadian border. It was operated by the late Frank Kuras. Lux came here from Buffalo to close product negotiations. It is reported the company will lease or buy other theatres.

Donald Schine is the son of Louis W. Schine, vice-president and general manager of the Schine Circuit, Gloversville.

Geison Named by Bergman

Sam Geison has been appointed to Universal-International's home office publicity staff by Maurice Bergman, U-I's Eastern advertising-publicity director, with special assignments as column and syndicate contact. Geison was syndicate and column contact for Columbia Pictures in New York when he resigned in mid-November. He had been connected with Columbia for six years.

Newsreel Parade

HIGHLIGHTING the newsreel parade are such diverse items as the Tournament of Roses, Tojo on trial, Canada's atom plant and a food message from John Garfield. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 2 — [illegible] plant in Canada. Tojo takes stand in war crimes trial in Tokyo. Tornado in Louisiana. French flood. New Year's Eve in New York and London. Rose Bowl game. Food message from John Garfield.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 236—Rose Bowl classic. First films of Canada's atom plant. Tojo on trial. Food message from John Garfield. Gay sendoff for 1947. Tournament of Roses. King Orange Jamboree. Chelsea Arts Ball.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 39 — Rose Bowl, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl and Cotton Bowl.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 106 — Bowl highlights. Twenty-five die as tornados rip South. Parade in Philadelphia. Tournament of Roses at Pasadena.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 41—Tojo on trial. Friendship Food in France. "New Look" centuries old. Cotton and Sugar Bowls. Tournament of Roses and Rose Bowl, in color.

414 Theatres Are In Salt Lake Area

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—There are 414 theatres with a seating capacity of 186,208 in operation in the Salt Lake City territory, according to a directory compiled by the Motion Picture Association.

The 19th in a series of 31 directories, the new one reveals that 35 theatres with a capacity of 32,492 are in the area's five largest cities. Salt Lake City has 17 theatres with a capacity of 14,365. The city's theatres average 845 seats per house in comparison with a 304-seat average for 243 theatres in 227 other Utah towns with a population of 2,500 or less.

Mitchell Set to Leave Para. Jan. 16

Curtis Mitchell, who resigned recently as Paramount's national director of advertising-publicity, will leave the company on Jan. 16. His future plans are expected to be announced within a week.

Pending the appointment of a successor to Mitchell, Paul Raibourn, company vice-president, will continue to oversee the activities of the department, which were realigned and coordinated following Mitchell's resignation.

Albany TOA Meetings

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 6.—A series of regional meetings of the Albany unit of the Theatre Owners of America will be held in the cities of this exchange area, it was decided at a TOA meeting here yesterday. First meeting will be held in Utica, probably on Jan. 10. Because snow and traffic congestion in this area reduced attendance at yesterday's meeting, the election of three additional TOA directors was postponed. Harry Lamont will continue as temporary chairman.

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IN 48 STATES THEY RANG IN 1948!



It started with a rip-roaring World Premiere at Radio City Music Hall, with hundreds of simultaneous New Years bookings throughout the nation. It's a tonic in Technicolor, hailed by trade press and newspaper critics for the fun and the song hits, the beautiful girls and the wild and wonderful dancing, the mad and merry cast of youthful stars and the sheer pace of it. *Happy Good News Year!*

JUNE ALLYSON · PETER LAWFORD

PATRICIA MARSHALL · JOAN McCRACKEN

RAY McDONALD · MEL TORME

COLOR BY Technicolor

Screen Play by Betty Comden and Adolph Green • based on the Musical Comedy by Lawrence Schwab, Lew Brown, Frank Mondel, B. G. DeSylva, and Ray Henderson

Directed by CHARLES WALTERS · Produced by ARTHUR FREED

9 Scripts Ready For Industry Series

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Nine scripts for the industry's short series were given final review yesterday in Hollywood when the directing committee for the program met under the chairmanship of N. Peter Rathvon.

Motion Picture Association officials said they thought production would get under way on several of the shorts in 60 days, and that some would be ready for distribution in 90 to 120 days. Distribution and exploitation details will be worked out in New York.

Plans for the screen editorial series —which was led off by "Power Behind the Nation"—now center around getting each major producer to include a similar "problem" short in its short program for the coming months. MPA officials will then work with each producer on whatever subject it is decided to undertake.

Bordanaro on Stand In Upstate Suit

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 6.—With the first witness, Alexander A. Bordanaro, manager of the Palace Theatre, Olean, N. Y., still on the stand, the trial of Bordanaro Brothers' $300,000 damage suit again major producer-distributors was recessed this afternoon until tomorrow morning. Today's session was marked by legal argument concerning the pertinence of the receipts of a candy counter in the theatre as a factor in the bill for the alleged damages.

Indications are that the trial will take several days and may be followed by litigation that would carry it to the higher courts to test questions concerning trade practices.

Bordanaro, asserting that he had to take news reels and short subjects that he said he neither wanted nor needed in order to obtain feature pictures, recounted negotiations over a period of more than 15 years with representatives of the defendants.

Trucolor Available To Industry: Yates

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 6.—Trucolor, the color process heretofore restricted to Republic's needs, is now available to the entire industry, Herbert J. Yates, Republic president, disclosed today. He also said that the $3,000,000 laboratory expansion program will make the process available throughout the world eventually.

ATA Argument

(*Continued from page* 1)

position to ATA and collaborated with ATA on strategy, also has been granted time for oral argument.

"This action on the part of the Supreme Court justifies, in my opinion, the choice of intervention as an approach to the case for exhibitors rather than some other remedy," Robert W. Coyne, former executive director of ATA and now executive director of TOA, said. "This at least assures that the voice of exhibition will be heard by the high court and should be a source of gratification to all exhibitors," he said.

ATA, following the formation of TOA remained in corporate existence for the sole purpose of pursuing its plea for intervention in the New York case.

Review

"The Treasure of the Sierra Madre"

(Warner Brothers)

THE idea that gold can corrupt the souls of those who crave it too desperately is given a broad groundwork of plot in "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre." The film is a rousing outdoor action drama that does not easily slip into standard categories; it has much to commend it. It has an all male cast (except for some bit parts) headed by Humphrey Bogart, Walter Huston and Tim Holt. Once the dramatization gets underway after a slow start, it sweeps along with unebbing intensity. Merchandising angles offered seem numerous and profitably exploitable.

The story's main plot has the three men, all in various stages of dereliction, meeting in Tampico and deciding to go off to the wild country on a gold-prospecting expedition. The trip proves a punishing one, interrupted by bandits and beset with surprises. Along the way, scenes of heightening excitement, touched by irony and humor, come up, as do sweeping views vividly photographed. Gold is finally found, but greed and mistrust steadily tighten its hold. Bogart, finally believing he has killed Holt, takes off with the bags of gold, only to learn the terror of the hunted. The finale plays an ironic trick on all three.

Bogart is very much at home in his role, replete with the grimaces and words that come whistling through his teeth. He performs quite well, except for a sequence on the hammy side which calls for him to deliver a conscience-crazed soliloquy. Huston is outstanding in his role as the bouncing old rascal who winds up a happy medicine man of an Indian tribe. In rounding out the trio, Holt delivers a competent job.

The John Huston screenplay, based on the novel by B. Traven, seems to suggest some hidden wisdom which does not come off too clearly. The film also has some early sequences which, while brisk enough, do not seem necessarily relevant to the story that runs a prolonged 126 minutes. Direction by John Huston is adroit. Henry Blanke produced.

Running time, 126 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 24.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

New Zealand Will Probe Its Industry

By R. A. USMAR

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Dec. 29 (Via Airmail)—A government committee empowered to inquire into the motion picture industry here has been set up under the chairmanship of the Minister of Industries and Commerce.

Serving on the committee with the minister will be 10 members of the New Zealand Parliament. The inquiry will be conducted during the Parliamentary recess. Film hire tax, film rentals, the licensing system, working conditions generally, the alleged trend toward monopolies, and related problems are listed among matters to be taken up by the inquiry.

Films for 10,000 War Veterans Posts

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The Veterans of Foreign Wars has set up a film distribution service, which will use the "Sherman Plan" for distribution of 16mm. sponsored films to its 10,000 posts and 3,500 ladies' auxiliary chapters.

A preview committee will pass on all films, the VFW said. The committee consists of Al Sherman, film consultant and originator of the distribution plan; Merritt F. Williams, Canon of Washington Cathedral and national chaplain of the VFW; Nathan D. Golden, Commerce Department motion picture consultant, and three VFW officials.

New Coast Producer

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 6.—Articles of incorporation have been filed here for a new independent producing company, Eronel Productions, Inc. Officers are: Alan H. Posner, president; Walter D. Compton, vice-president, and Sam Z. Abarbanel, secretary-treasurer.

Less Film Time Is Seen for Portugal

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—It appears likely that the Portuguese government will soon require theatre operators to include in their yearly programs a number of weeks of "live" entertainment, reducing available film time, according to a U. S. Commerce Department report by motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden.

The Portuguese law of Dec. 27, 1946, designed to encourage domestic production, has not forced distributors to withdraw from the market as a result of the additional tax burden, nor has it stimulated interest in national films to the degree anticipated.

Financial failures among Portuguese producers is high, the report notes. Not less than 20 have been engaged in producing 30 features during the past 15 years. Production costs are high, the report adds, and there is so little hope of retrieving an investment that producers find it difficult to obtain financial backing.

239 U. S. Films Shown In Mexico Last Year

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 6.—American films again dominated Mexico's screens in 1947, accounting for 239 of the 382 pictures released. Native producers supplied 62 features, followed by 36 Argentinian, 23 English, 11 French, six Spanish, three Chilean and one each from Cuba and Italy.

Westport Formed Here

Westport International Film, Inc., has been formed here to distribute French and Italian product. The firm has acquired American rights to "A Lover's Return," French comedy drama starring Louis Jouvet and Gaby Morlay which will have its premiere in this country at the Avenue Playhouse following the engagement of "Shoeshine."

Industry Films to Quakers for 'DPs'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The American Friends (Quakers) Service Committee will use American films in orienting and educating displaced persons scheduled to enter this country from the U. S. zone of Germany, according to an announcement by Motion Picture Association president Eric Johnston.

First film made available by the industry is "Land of Liberty," produced by Cecil B. DeMille.

The industry has offered the committee a broad selection of other films for the pre-entry educational program, MPA said.

UA-Enterprise

(*Continued from page* 1)

Harry Sherman will deliver his completed production, "Red River," to U. A., thus giving the distributor four new productions for its release schedule in the near future.

The U. A.-Enterprise agreement was reached following a series of meetings between Gradwell L. Sears, U. A. president, and Enterprise heads. Sears will supervise all sales and marketing of "Arch of Triumph" and will create a special sales division to concentrate on its marketing exclusively. Sears will convene a special sales meeting in New York in the near future to discuss his release plans for "Arch."

An additional $400,000 will be added to the promotional budget for "Arch," bringing the total for its campaign to more than $1,000,000, it was said.

George J. Schaefer, Enterprise distribution head, paid tribute to U. A.'s handling of "Body and Soul." He said that U. A. is the bulwark of independent production and there is reason to have great confidence in the future of the company. Schaefer said it is important to all exhibitors and to the public that U. A. be given every possible support.

The Enterprise statement said it wants a part of its product on the U. A. schedule at all times.

Foreign distribution of the three pictures it is delivering to U. A. will be handled by Loew's International.

Pickford Here Today

Mary Pickford is due in New York today from Hollywood for conferences with United Artists officials on plans for the release this month of "Sleep, My Love," her latest production.

NCCJ Film Unit

(*Continued from page* 1)

American Brotherhood Week, Feb. 22-29. During that week theatres throughout the country will be invited to show brief films depicting incidents illustrative of brotherhood. The films will be prepared by and appended to newsreels, each reel employing different subject matter.

Speakers at the meeting who discussed organization plans and described and praised NCCJ work included former Governor Herbert Lehman of New York, Skouras, J. Robert Rubin, chairman of the NCCJ amusements division; Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, NCCJ president; David Weinstock, chairman of the motion picture division finance committee; Will H. Hays and Dr. Howard McCracken, NCCJ executive secretary.

Dr. Clinchy described progress being made in extending Conference activities in Germany and Europe.

START THE NEW YEAR WITH
THE MOST IMPORTANT 2-REEL
SUBJECT IN YEARS...

"1947-The Year of Division"

19 SCREEN MINUTES TO THRILL
EVERY AMERICAN—PRODUCED BY

Paramount News

(Issue 37)



For years Paramount News' annual year-end summary of news events has been so superior to all others that it has been booked as a special extra attraction by thousands of theatres in excess of the regular contract list.

This year Paramount News' recapitulation of 1947 is greater than ever—far more than a collection of highlights—a great and inspiring fighting story that every American will cheer.

"1947—THE YEAR OF DIVISION" will promote the prestige of your theatre—and of your country!

Whether or not you have a regular Paramount News contract, don't fail to play—and to play up—this newsreel diary of the year's top events, topped by the top story in American history . . . the blasting open of One World into the Division of the East and West.

AVAILABLE FOR SPOT BOOKING SO THAT
EVERY THEATRE IN AMERICA CAN PLAY IT

Six WB Directors Up for Reelection

Six directors of Warner Bros. will be up for reelection at the annual stockholders' meeting in Wilmington, Del., on Feb. 17. They are Harry M. Warner, president; Jack L. Warner, production vice-president; Albert Warner, vice-president and treasurer; Robert W. Perkins, vice-president, secretary and general counsel, and Waddill Catchings and John E. Bierwirth, directors.

The stockholders will be asked to vote on the board's proposal that the capital of the corporation be reduced through cancellation of the 107,180 shares of treasury stock which was bought in the open market.

Terms of five other directors do not expire this year.

Common stock owned by directors up for reelection is as follows: Harry M. Warner, 311,000 shares; Jack L. Warner, 448,500; Albert Warner, 453,000; Perkins, 1,000. Neither Bierwirth nor Catchings own shares.

Some 130 company employes, excluding officers and directors, received during the last fiscal year remuneration in excess of $20,000 but not more than $50,000; 45 received in excess of $50,000 but not more than $100,000, and 23 received in excess of $100,000, according to the company's statement.

Directors and officers received remuneration last year as follows: Harry M. Warner, $182,100; Jack L. Warner, $182,150 (an increase of $50 over the previous year); Albert Warner, $104,600; Harry M. Kalmine, $112,700 ($5,365 increase); Ben Kalmenson, $112,700 ($15,100 increase); Samuel Schneider, $91,700 ($4,050 increase); Perkins, $87,300 ($12,550 increase); Herman Starr, $78,000; Mort Blumenstock, $69,200 ($6,950 increase); S. P. Friedman, $65,700; Samuel Carlisle, $50,620.

Goldstein

(*Continued from page* 1)

ment, its specialized, necessary duties would be divided among others in the home office. The announcement said that Goldstein leaves with the commendations of N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president, and Ned E. Depinet, vice-president. Goldstein, a veteran advertising, publicity and exploitation executive, was installed in the post by the late Charles Koerner, former head of the RKO studio, and was continued therein by Dore Schary, present studio head. Before joining RKO, Goldstein was advertising-publicity director for David O. Selznick.

Thomas Probe Delay

(*Continued from page* 1)

in late January or early February. The actual trial, jury deliberation, and sentencing may take several weeks longer.

Thomas' decision is said to be based on a desire to get some clue on how the courts will act on any future committee contempt citations.

TUNE IN
"STORM IN A TEACUP"
NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th
FORD HOUR — N B C
Then Call Your Local Devonshire Man
and Book the Picture Starring
REX HARRISON — VIVIEN LEIGH
DEVONSHIRE FILM COMPANY
185 Devonshire Street Boston, Mass.

WB Profit Ups

(*Continued from page* 1)

000 increase), and fourth, $8,475,000 ($1,150,000 increase).

Warner points out, however, that as a result of decreased gross income, both domestic and foreign, since last spring, as well as increased production costs, the net profit of the company for the first quarter of 1947-48, and which ended Nov. 29 last, is estimated to be approximately half the profit for the corresponding quarter last year, or about $5,800,000 for the quarter.

Company's purchase of RKO-Pathe News last August cost $4,000,000 cash, Warner disclosed.

Since May 2, 1947, Warner said, the company has purchased 107,180 shares of common stock on the open market at a total cost of $1,633,000, but the company does not contemplate making any further purchases of such stock and Warner stockholders will be asked at the annual meeting, to be held in Wilmington, Feb. 17, to approve the cancellation of stock so purchased.

According to the statement sent to Warner stockholders, the company's gross income in 1947 was $172,004,197, compared to $165,533,006 for 1946. Total costs and expenses last year amounted to $132,494,353, as against $126,058,356 for the previous year. The 1947 operating profit before charges was $39,509,844, compared to $39,474,650 for 1946. In 1947 $15,300,000 was set aside for taxes, as against $18,500,000 in 1946.

Total product inventories at the end of the last fiscal year, less amortization, amounted to $45,135,466, compared to $42,746,065 for 1946. Company's cash on hand as of last August 31 totaled $16,592,321, while a year previously it amounted to $16,935,411.

Total current and working assets amounted to $73,788,893 in 1947, with total current liabilities being $34,417,975. Assets amounted to $70,489,838 in 1946, with liabilities totaling $32,754,535.

At the end of the last fiscal year, fixed assets, less reserves for depreciation and amortization, totaled $99,390,063, marking an increase of $1,215,340 over 1946.

WB Production

(*Continued from page* 1)

Is in the Streets," and adds the following: According to William Cagney, Warner Brothers also will release the recently completed film version of the William Saroyan drama, 'Time of Your Life'."

The Cagney deal with Warners has been challenged by United Artists, which claims its contract with Cagney is unfulfilled.

Transatlantic, Curtiz, U. S. on Slate

In addition to the Cagney pictures, Warners also lists outside productions from Transatlantic Pictures, London; Michael Curtiz Productions, and United States Pictures. Among its new personalities the company lists James Cagney, Gary Cooper, Danny Kaye, Ingrid Bergman, James Stewart, and Alfred Hitchcock. Also, Henry Koster, Elliott Nugent, Bretaigne Windust and Anthony Veiller.

Pictures scheduled for early starts, Warner said, are: "Key Largo," "Rope," "The 49'ers," "Until Proven Guilty," "Autumn Crocus," "The Fountainhead," "Ethan Frome," "The Story of Seabiscuit," "The Turquoise," "Copper Hill," "Girl from Jones Beach" and "June Bride."

Scheduled for later starts are: "Under Capricorn," the new Cagney productions ,"Forever and Always," "The Long Way Home," "Dream Street," "Distant Drums," "The Apple Orchard" and "Sister Act."

Others in Preparation

Others being prepared are: "The Two Worlds of Johnny Truro," "Return of the Soldier," "The Story of Will Rogers," "The Gay Nineties," "One Last Fling," "Montana," "When Old New York Was Young," "Cleopatra Arms," and a picture based on Eddie Cantor's life.

Also, "Bright Leaf," "Colt .45," "One Sunday Afternoon," "Silver Lining," "John Loves Mary," "Happy Times," "Flamingo Road," "June Bride" and "Sunburst."

The company also lists 13 additional pictures already completed and ready for release.

MPF Financing Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

committee, headed by Ned E. Depinet, which will survey the industry's potential needs in terms of relief and assistance, is expected to meet this month also, although an exact date has not been set.

Also scheduled for an early meeting is a third committee, which will deal with MPF organization and administration. Its membership includes all elected officers of the Foundation.

Foundation Plans to Win No. Central Allied Support

Motion Picture Foundation headquarters here will set about at once to correct what it terms is "a complete misunderstanding" of the Foundation's purposes and objectives by the board of directors of North Central Allied.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday, the NCA group has unanimously disapproved its organization's participation in the MPF, holding the industry philanthropic plan to be "vague" and confusing.

A Foundation spokesman here yesterday admitted that a full and proper presentation of the MPF program had not been made before NCA and other industry groups in Minneapolis, one of the three key city areas which have not organized local MPF units. He said MPF here will communicate immediately with Stanley Kane, NCA executive director, to arrange a meeting at which a Foundation executive would explain the MPF's purposes and objectives. The other two unorganized areas, Cleveland and Oklahoma City, are expected to establish MPF units in the near future, the Foundation spokesman said.

It is held possible that Allied States president Jack Kirsch, who last month in New York was elected national MPF secretary, will be asked to explain personally the MPF program to NCA.

"There must be a complete misunderstanding in Minneapolis," the MPF official here said, adding: "Up to now there has not been a dissenting voice."

UK May 'Sacrifice'

(*Continued from page* 1)

ury Department is currently conducting an inventory of the nation's dollar assets, particularly in view of recent Washington statements that Congress will not complete passage of the European recovery bill before June.

But the British government, it is said, is determined somehow to see the country through a crisis, with or without emergency aid.

Allport Denies Johnston Will Visit London; Cripps Unaware

LONDON, Jan. 6.—F. W. Allport, American Motion Picture Asociation's European representative here, has denied that MPA president Eric A. Johnston plans to visit Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps in London in February, and Sir Stafford's secretary reports there is no knowledge of such a trip. Allport is meanwhile awaiting instructions from Johnston before resuming his *ad valorem* tax settlement talks with British government's Sir Wilfred Eady.

British treasury officials said today that Eady's understanding, since his visit last year with Johnston in Washington, was that Johnston will appear in London when Allport and Eady had completed preliminary talks.

No Johnston Trip, Says MPA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—"Nothing to it," was the comment made by Motion Picture Association officials here on a report that MPA president Eric Johnston will make an early flight to London. Johnston, they said, "has no plans to go to Europe soon."

Mundt Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

Department opposed including any frozen fund provision at this time if the passage of the Mundt Bill might be delayed as a result.

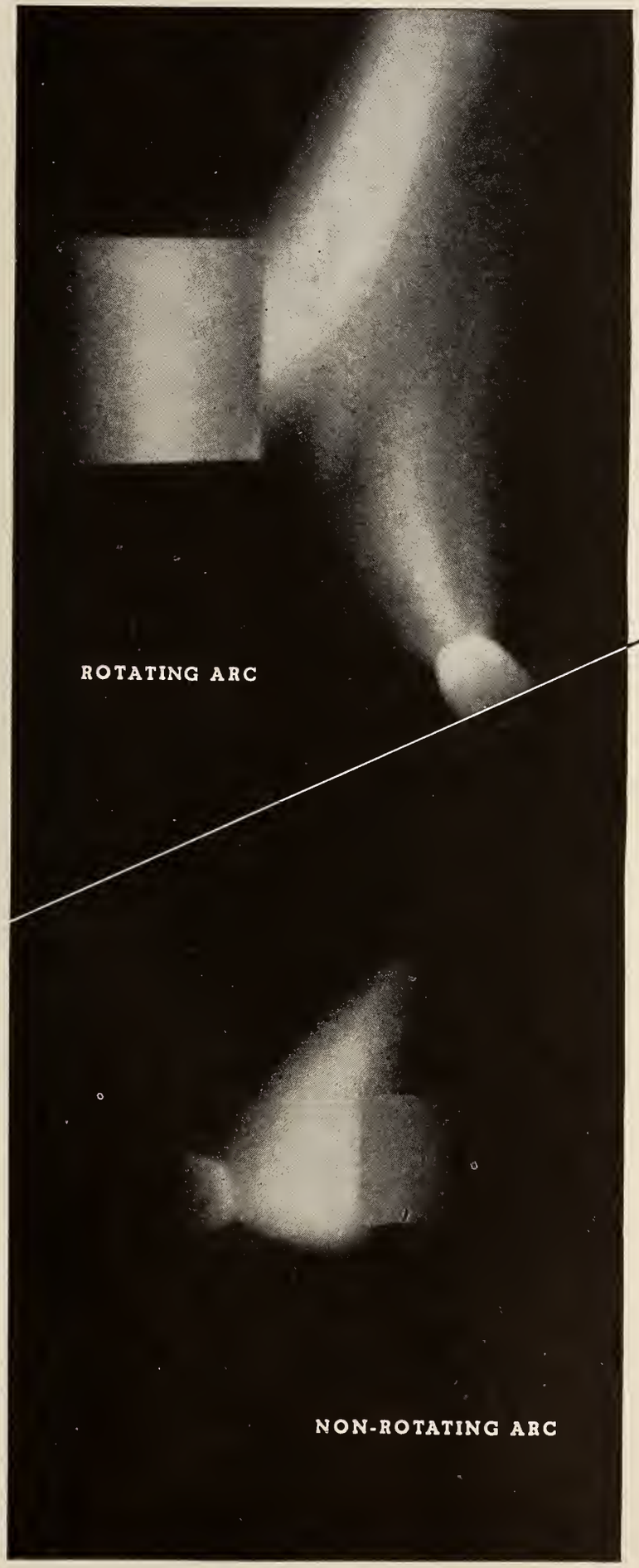
A State Department official said meanwhile that the Department has made no further progress in working out a plan to release some of the blocked funds. "One of our main difficulties," he said, "is that we haven't received any facts or figures from the industries affected. We don't have a single word on how much is frozen, how fast blocked balances are accumulating, or where they are accumulating."

This official stated that "we haven't got the information to go on, so how can we go any place. At the same time, it's not fair to hold up the Mundt Bill until we do get this information. It'll be better all around if we leave this go for a separate bill, when we have more information and a concrete solution to present to Congress."

New Canadian Film

OTTAWA, Jan. 6.—A new film in the "Canada Carries On" series, entitled "Eyes on Canada," is being released by the National Film Board and distributed by Columbia Pictures.

WANTED
Secretary-Editorial assistant for motion picture trade publication. Write giving experience, references, salary desired.
Box 403, Motion Picture Daily



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THE BRILLIANT crater in the positive carbon of a "National" High Intensity Carbon arc, regardless of size or type, contains all the elements of an invisible rainbow.

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THE Film DAILY

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Independent in Thought

The Daily Newspaper
Of Motion Pictures
Twenty-Nine Years Old

"To take its place with the big money-getters of the season"

REVIEWS OF NEW FILMS

"A Double Life"

with Ronald Colman, Signe Hasso

Kanin-U-I 104½ mins.

ANOTHER HIGH SPOT OF THE SEASON; THIS ONE IS LOADED WITH KNOW-HOW. SHOULD TAKE ITS PLACE WITH THE BIG MONEY GETTERS OF THE SEASON. CUKOR'S DIRECTION TOPS, SUPERB SCRIPTING AND MASTERFUL ACTING WITH COLMAN.

Another mid-season peak number is offered in "A Double Life." This is a sock drama treatment with a number of fine roles solidly cementing the story content. Ronald Colman, always a box office draw through these years, has a role here that any actor would give his right arm for and he does masterfully by it too.

This, also, is one of the first of the major numbers to be given that New York Look. Much of the story was shot on actual locales in and about the city. What comes up for comparative viewing when the synthetic realism of the Hollywood set is introduced at once gives the film a new distinction that, happily, is becoming more and more a practice rather than an innovation.

This "Double Life" is a brand new treatment of the Jekyll and Hyde theme with the leading characters being actors on the legitimate stage and their immediate circle of co-workers. Also, it is the study of an actor, a rakehell and general heel whose intensive application to the role of "Othello" in the Shakespeare work causes him to assume a positive homicidal identity with the Venetian figure and go out and commit murder. He is a mental case.

Garson Kanin and Ruth Gordon in writing their screenplay evince keen understanding of the characters they have peopled their work with and there is never a false theatrical note. It is a powerful and knowing job they have fashioned replete with some of the best lines and situations of a rather notable season.

In the cash exchange sense as far as the filmgoer is concerned, "A Double Life" will easily take its place with the finest dramatic pieces of the past few months—and there have been some fine ones which are racking up large gross figures.

A celebrated player of light roles, Colman essays "Othello" with Signe Hasso, also playing his ex-wife, in the role of "Desdemona." He applies himself intensively. Opening night his performance is acclaimed one of the masterworks of the contemporary stage. But the acclaim is too much for him. He returns to a night of love in the Lower East Side slum area and what with one contributing factor and another he strangles her with "The Love Kiss," his big moment in the stage play.

A press agent, played by Edmond O'Brien, who is in love with Miss Hasso in a remote sense, begins to add up the details and facts after a brief talk with one of the reporters who was on the spot when the body was found.

Identifying witnesses are rounded up. They are brought to watch Colman. In his last scene Colman, realizing his number is up, stabs himself to death.

It is not a pretty story but it is some of the best miming of these times. Miss Hasso is superb in a brand new role aptly fitted for her talents. As an actor who becomes wholly the man of the role he is portraying, Colman delivers up another profoundly telling performance. In support there is a fine cast that adheres strictly to the intent and purpose of the story. In directing George Cukor bidded high, achieved results.

The exhibitor will do well to encircle "A Double Life" as another one of the really good ones of this season.

CAST: Ronald Colman, Signe Hasso, Edmond O'Brien, Shelley Winters, Ray Collins, Phillip Loeb, Millard Mitchell, Joe Sawyer, Charles La Torre, Whit Bissell, John Drew Colt, Peter Thompson, Elizabeth Dunne, Alan Edmiston, Art Smith, Sid Tomack, Wilton Greff, Harlan Briggs, Claire Carleton, Betsy Blair, Janet Warren, Marjory Woodworth.

CREDITS: A Kanin Production; Written by Ruth Gordon, Garson Kanin; Produced by Michael Kanin; Director, George Cukor; Photography, Milton Krasner; Art direction, Bernard Herzbrun, Harvey Gillett; Film editor, Robert Parrish; Sound, John Austin; Special photography, David S. Horsley; Advisor, "Othello" sequence, Walter Hampden; Music, Miklos Rosza.

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VOL. 63. NO. 5 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1948 TEN CENTS

Thomas Again Says Hearings Will Resume

He Mentions 'Very Near Future' but No Date

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. — House Un-American Activities Committee Chairman J. Parnell Thomas today continued waving a big stick at the motion picture industry.

In a radio address from here over the Columbia Broadcasting System, the New Jersey Republican said he wished to serve notice on the industry and to advise the public that the committee's investigation of Hollywood is "far from over."

"In the very near future the records of many more top salaried Hollywood figures will be spotlighted," Thomas said, "and well they should, for it is sheer folly to permit the Communists and their fellow travelers to remain

(*Continued on page 4*)

4,000 Theatres to Back 'Dimes' Drive

More than 4,000 theatres in the U. S. already have agreed to cooperate with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis 1948 "March of Dimes" drive by holding audience collections during the week of Jan. 24-30, Foundation headquarters announced here yesterday.

Latest circuit to pledge audience collections is Butterfield Theatres, all of whose Michigan houses have enrolled, according to word received by the Foundation yesterday from L. E. Gordon, Butterfield president, in Detroit.

Meanwhile, David Newman, chairman of the Foundation's theatre committee of Wayne County, Mich., reports 100 per cent cooperation in the drive has been received from theatres in that county, which includes Detroit.

'Exploitation' Films By Ansell, Rowland

A program consisting of an undetermined number of "exploitation" pictures to be offered at the rate of one every eight months was announced here yesterday by Louis K. Ansell, St. Louis circuit owner, and William Rowland, in behalf of Southern California Pictures.

The films, which will be of the

(*Continued on page 4*)

Cole, Lardner and Dmytryk Institute Suits on Dismissals

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7.—In individual suits filed today in Superior Court, Lester Cole, Ring Lardner, Jr., and Edward Dmytryk are seeking an aggregate of $3,000,000 for alleged salary losses resulting from their discharges from M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and RKO Radio, respectively.

All three charged damages to their fame resulting from the discharges which followed their citation for contempt of the House Un-American Activities Committee and the subsequent firing under the policy formulated by the Association of Motion Picture Producers and the Society of Independent Motion Picture Pro-

(*Continued on page 4*)

WB Pathe to Issue Canadian Newsreel

A special edition of Warner Pathe News will be issued for distribution in Canada, it was announced here yesterday by Norman Moray, president of Warner News, Inc.

The new edition, which will contain news of special interest to Canada, will be issued weekly and will be known as Warner Pathe Canadian News. First edition will be released tomorrow, and will include the new color sequence of the Rose Bowl football classic and the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena.

D. C. MPTO Votes TOA Affiliation

Washington, Jan. 7.—The Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Metropolitan Washington voted today to affiliate with Theatre Owners of America and named A. Julian Brylawski, president of the local group, a TOA director.

The unit voted to take this action some time before the TOA convention, but then affiliated theatres here opposed joining, and there was considerable doubt on a final stand.

Del Giudice Barter Plan Discounted

Official industry sources yesterday cast doubt on the value of the film barter plan which Filippo Del Giudice, British producer, who will arrive here today from England aboard the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth*, proposes to offer to company heads here as a possible means of resolving the Anglo-American film tax impasse.

Del Giudice's proposal would permit American and British distributors to retain 75 per cent of the profits from the exhibition of each other's product.

One top executive said that the Del Giudice plan is "out of the question." He expressed the opinion that the British film industry is "much too small as stacked against America's"

(*Continued on page 4*)

Foreign Language Films At All-Time Peak Here

With the number of foreign-language films currently at an all-time peak in downtown houses in New York, and in some other metropolitan cities, an even greater volume is foreseen for the next 12 months. According to present estimates, foreign film distributors will release some 190 foreign productions in the U. S. in 1948, compared with 120 last year. These figures are exclusive of British films.

To create the needed showcases for their exhibition, numerous houses have been converted to foreign-film policies. There are said to be some 250 houses in the U. S. exhibiting foreign product, with this figure expected to reach 300 at the end of this year. This compares with 100 houses in 1946.

Foreign films currently playing in

(*Continued on page 4*)

Col. Stockholders' Meeting March 9

Date for the annual meeting of Columbia stockholders has been set for March 9. Harry Cohn, company president, is expected to come to New York from Hollywood for the meeting.

Columbia's board of directors, at a meeting held here yesterday, declared a quarterly dividend of $1.06¼ per share on the $4.25 cumulative preferred stock, payable on Feb. 14 to stockholders of record on Jan. 31.

Frozen Funds Relief Is Set Back Months

May Not Even Pass This Session of Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Congressional approval of legislation to give the State Department authority to work out a solution to the frozen funds problems of the motion picture and other communications industries was set back at least several months today when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported out the Mundt Bill without any such proposal.

It is certain that several months will go by before a separate bill can be worked out, introduced, subjected to full public hearings, and then passed through both Houses. It is almost a better-than-even chance that such a bill will not have time to pass this Congress.

All committee Senators were reported sympathetic to the industry's

(*Continued on page 4*)

President's Tax Proposal Opposed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—President Truman does not stand a chance of getting the higher corporate profits taxes which he asked of Congress today.

That is the conclusion after talking to top Republican and Democratic leaders. Even the President's supporters admit that it is unlikely.

The President's tax proposals were for a reduction of $40 income tax credit for each person and dependent,

(*Continued on page 4*)

Gov. Dewey Urges N.Y. Tax Extension

ALBANY, Jan. 7.—Continuation of the "controversial" local permissive tax program to include smaller cities than those now eligible to impose them, and which includes a five per cent amusement tax, was urged here today by Gov. Dewey in his message opening the 171st session of the state legislature.

At the same time it has been re-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M distribution vice-president, will leave here today for a month's vacation in Miami, and will go from there to the M-G-M studio.

•

LOUIS PHILLIPS, Paramount counsel and partner in the industry law firm of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim, returned to his desk here yesterday after a week's illness.

•

FRED MEYERS, Universal-International Eastern division sales manager, is on a visit to Pittsburgh and Cleveland from New York.

•

F. J. A. McCARTHY, Universal-International Southern and Canadian sales chief, has left here for Memphis.

•

TED GAMBLE, president of Theatre Owners of America, is due back in New York from Portland, Ore., on Jan. 20.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner Eastern and Canadian division sales manager, is on a trip to Cleveland, Indianapolis and Pittsburgh.

•

NATHANIEL L. HALPERN, assistant to Columbia Broadcasting vice-president FRANK STANTON, will fly to the Coast from New York Saturday.

•

ANDREW W. SMITH, JR., 20th Century-Fox general sales manager, is due back in New York today from Toronto and Chicago.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion exploitation manager, is in Boston from New York.

Production Still At 22 on the Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—The production level, continuing at low ebb with an index of 22, remained unchanged from the previous week. Four new films were started while an equal number were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "Moonrise" (a Charles K. Feldman Group-Marshall Grant Production), Republic; "The Chair for Martin Rome" and "Apartment for Peggy," 20th Century-Fox, and "Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid," Universal-International.

Shooting finished on "The Tenderfoot," Allied Artists; "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," Selznick, and "Are You With It" and "Another Part of the Forest," U-I.

Mrs. Mattie Greenfield

Funeral rites for Mrs. Mattie Greenfield, mother of Felix Greenfield of Warner Brothers home office publicity department, will be held today at the Midwood Memorial Chapel, Brooklyn. Mrs. Greenfield died on Tuesday.

News Briefs . . .

CONDEMNING Universal-International's "The Senator Was Indiscreet" as a "reflection on the integrity of every duly elected representative of the American people," the board of directors of the Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa and Nebraska, which represents owners of 325 theatres in the two states, has passed a resolution calling upon its members not to exhibit the film in their theatres. The resolution added that the film "could be used as vicious propaganda by subversive elements in this nation as well as our enemies abroad."

Federal Court Upholds Goldman Suit Decision

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7.—Third Circuit Court here has upheld the award of $375,000 in treble damages made in Dec., 1946, to William Goldman Theatres, Inc., against Warner Brothers and other majors. The original decision was handed down by U. S. District Judge William H. Kirkpatrick after Goldman charged the film companies discriminated against his Philadelphia Erlanger Theatre in the distribution of first-run films.

Circuit Court Judges John Biggs, Jr., Albert B. Maris and Gerald McLaughlin concurred in sustaining the award, which covers the period between Nov. 9, 1940, and Dec. 8, 1942. Goldman now has a suit pending in U. S. District Court in Philadelphia for treble damages for the period between Dec. 8, 1942, and Dec. 18, 1946.

First DEFA German Films Available Since the War

Artkino Pictures has acquired North American distribution rights of "Die Fledermaus," "Razzia" and "A Killer Among Us," first German DEFA films to be made available in the U. S. since the war.

DEFA (Deutsche Film A. G. of Berlin) is the new German film company which started production in May, 1946 on the site of the old UFA studios in Babelsberg. DEFA plans for 1947-48 call for a minimum of 20 features, three full-length documentaries, 30 educational films and 48 newsreels.

SMPE to Establish International Unit

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—An international activities organization will be set up by the Society of Motion Picture Engineers on Saturday in a cross-country board meeting which will be linked by telephone, Loren R. Ryder, SMPE president, disclosed today. Nine members of the board will meet in his office simultaneously with a meeting in New York headquarters of the other board members.

International Projector Host Tonight to Veteran Operators

Members of the 25-30 Club, an organization of projectionists with 25 years' experience or more, will be feted tonight by the International Projector Corp. at its Bloomfield, N. J., plant.

RICHARD F. WALSH, IATSE international president, yesterday re-installed Herman Gelber as president of projectionists' Local No. 306 at induction ceremonies in Palm Gardens here. All other recently-elected "306" officers likewise were installed by Walsh.

Walsh had just returned here from Washington where he met with other AFL leaders on Tuesday to discuss administration plans for the Federation's "League for Political Education." Frank Murdoch, "IA" general counsel, also addressed yesterday's induction meeting.

Canadian Video Planning Only Tentative: Harris

TORONTO, Jan. 7. — "Television development is wholly dependent on plans of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.," declared E. J. Harris, manager of J. Arthur Rank's Gaumont-Kalee Ltd., here, in stressing that the whole television subject in Canada was very much in the tentative stage as yet.

Harris said that the limitation of cinema-television installations, as constructed by the British Rank Organization, to Odeon theatres in Canada had not been contemplated. Following the declaration of policy with respect to theatre television by Canadian Broadcasting, it was expected that Gaumont-Kalee would probably follow the same procedure as with G-K projectors in offering the equipment to any theatre buyer.

AFL Group, UCLA To Sponsor Forum

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7. — The Hollywood AFL Film Council, in conjunction with the University of California in Los Angeles Institute on Industrial Relations, will sponsor a two-day labor institute on Jan. 11-12, with IATSE president Richard F. Walsh and international representative Roy Brewer, as well as Charles Boren of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, and Ronald Reagan and Pat Somerset of the Screen Actors Guild, among the speakers.

Topics will include the Taft-Hartley law, union security, the guaranteed annual wage and collective bargaining problems.

Approve Industry Series Scripts

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Scripts for the first three of the nine shorts in the industry's public relations program have been approved by the industry films project committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "Movies Are Adventure," "Film Writers" and "Film Directors" are the titles.

McCormick Realart Manager

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 7.—Tom McCormick has been appointed manager of Selected Pictures here, by Frank Childs, president of Selected, who holds the Realart franchise for this territory.

Radio-Video Marks 60% Physical Rise

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The number of standard broadcast, FM, and television stations slated to render commercial broadcast service increased about 60 per cent during the year ended June 30, 1947, according to the annual report of the Federal Communications Commissions released here.

The total, which stood at 1,70[illegible] June 30, 1946, was up to 2,779 [illegible] end of fiscal 1947.

The number of authorized stations of all types went up from 2,439 to 3,551.

Total of FM stations rose from 55 on July 1, 1946 to 238 a year later. Total authorizations doubled during the year—from 456 to 918.

Six television stations held licenses at the close of the year, with 60 construction permits outstanding and nine applications pending.

B. and K. Asks FCC to Renew 2 Video Licenses

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Balaban and Katz Corp. has asked the Federal Communications Commission to renew its license for two experimental television stations in the Chicago area.

Two New Film Firms Are Formed in N. Y.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 7.—Tiberia Film Distributing Corp. has been incorporated to carry on a distribution business in Kings County. Incorporators are: Alex Canepari, Loretta Gatti and Mario Colecchia, all of New York. Guy H. Puca, Brooklyn, was incorporating attorney.

Manhattan Films, Inc., has been incorporated to carry on a motion picture business in New York. Incorporators are: Edgar Loew and Harry R. Mark, New York, and Fernand C. R. Matthey, Alexandria, Va. Friedman and Bareford, New York, were incorporating attorneys.

Legion Classifies 3; One Is A-I, Two A-II

National Legion of Decency this week classified "The Prince of Thieves," Columbia, Class A-I, and "The Paradine Case," Selznick Releasing Organization, and "The Voice of the Turtle," Warner, as A-II.

Dezel Gets 19 Films

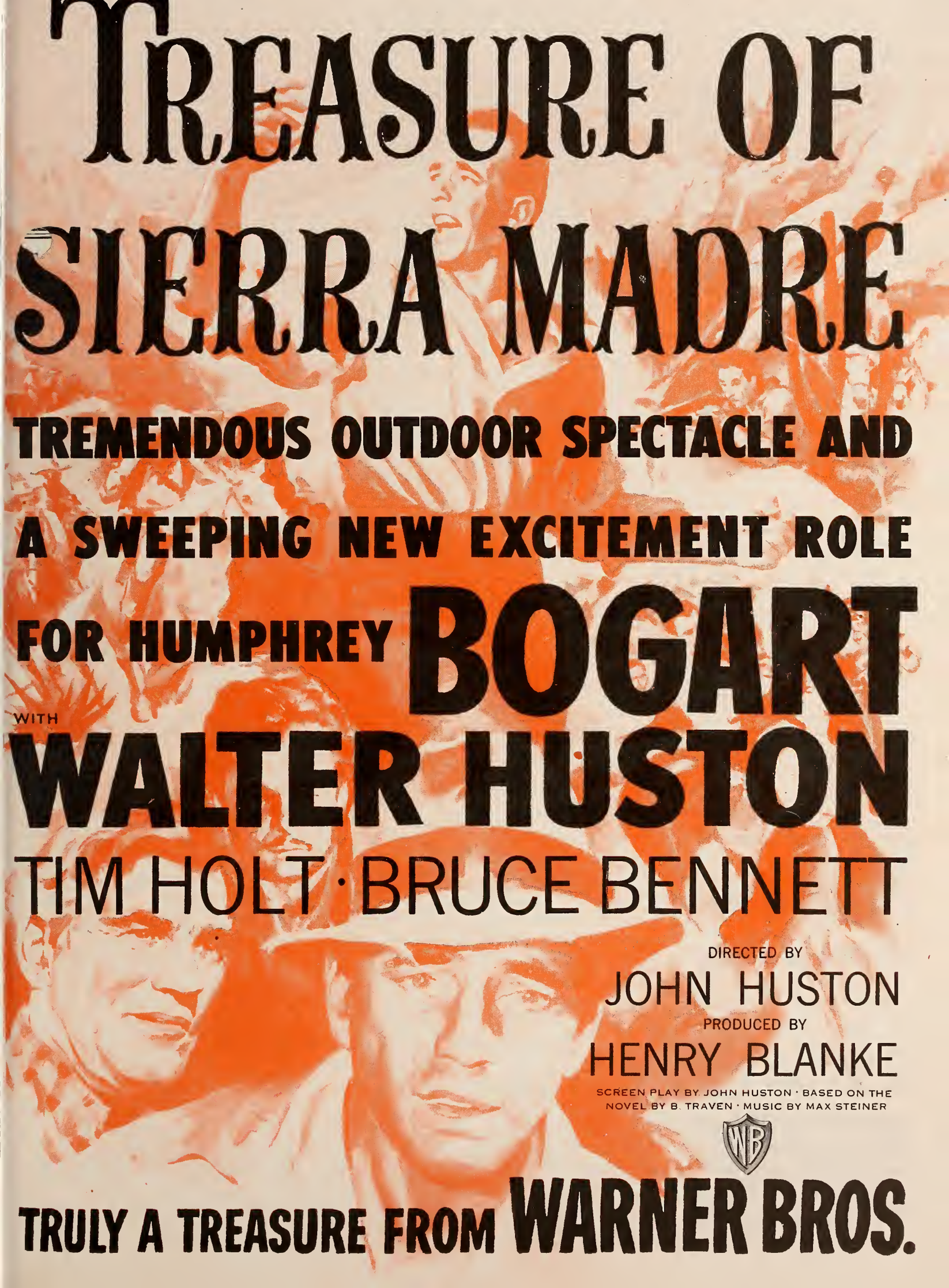
DETROIT, Jan. 7.—Nineteen more features have been added to the banner of Albert Dezel Productions, it was announced today by Albert Dezel, president. All are action pictures, 11 are Westerns. The entire package was acquired from Stage and Screen Productions, and are being re-released by Dezel.

Pekor Rejoins CBS

Charles F. Pekor, Jr., will return to CBS as assistant to the director of press information, effective Jan. 5, it was announced here by George Crandall director. Pekor resigned from the staff of *Variety* to rejoin CBS.

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TRULY A TREASURE FROM WARNER BROS.

Short Subject

Pasadena Rosebowl

(Warner Pathe News)
(With Cinecolor)

Marking another milestone in newsreel development, Warner Pathe News, as part of its current release, presents in Cinecolor the Pasadena Rosebowl football game and the Tournament of Roses Parade that preceded the contest. The color certainly enhances this job of pictorial reporting, catching the parade with its varied floats in all its spirit of brightness and frivolity.

As for the game itself, the color differences in the garb of the opposing teams make the game easier for the viewer to follow. When the cameras caught some of the longshots, however, the color seemed a bit hazy. All told, it appears obvious that color lends an enhancing effect to special outdoor events. The reel has been described as "the first practical step" towards a regular newsreel in color. The remainder of the newsreel footage, in black and white, is devoted to scenes of Tojo on trial, French children getting friendship food, the "new look" traced back to primitive tribes, and additional football games. M.H.

Del Giudice Plan

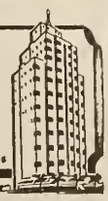
(Continued from page 1)

to make possible the success of such a proposal.

Informed industry sources regarded the Del Giudice trip to this country as a strictly personal one and not sponsored by the British government, as the producer indicated prior to his sailing from England.

That Del Giudice was headed here to discuss a settlement of the *ad valorem* tax situation on the authority of the British government, was disputed in some official quarters in London. Among those issuing denials were Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Harold Wilson, president of the British Board of Trade.

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Frozen Funds

(Continued from page 1)

problems, but felt that they are too great to be tacked on to the Mundt Bill without having had public hearings and that such action might endanger prompt passage of the bill, which authorizes the State Department Overseas Information Service.

The bill must still pass the Senate, but any changes of such magnitude are unlikely there. The same holds for the Senate conference with the House, which has already approved the bill.

No one here seemed quite clear today where the initiative now lies. Some Senators said that Senator Smith, chairman of the sub-committee which handled the bill, had spoken of introducing a measure dealing with the frozen funds situation. Others said the initiative now lay with the State Department to work out a plan, while a few said the industry must take the initiative by approaching more Congressmen and giving more complete information. Some talk is reviving of attempting to have a solution ready in time to be tied to the European Recovery Plan, when it comes up for Congressional attention.

The bill approved by the Senate committee still urges the State Department to use private information agencies wherever possible. A provision in the House bill for an 11-man advisory commission, including a film representative, has been dropped, however, in favor of two smaller advisory commissions whose composition is not specified in the law. One would advise on information activities, the other on educational exchange programs.

Sen. Smith said he had assurances from the Republican leadership that the Mundt bill will come up on the Senate floor late next week.

Meanwhile, informed Administration circles said that George V. Allen, present ambassador to Iran, has been selected to take the place vacated in October by William Benton as Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. Allen in this post would supervise the Overseas Information Service's "voice" program.

Truman Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

with the estimated $3,200,000,000 revenue loss offset by an increase in taxes on corporate profits.

Republicans in Congress immediately denounced this as destroying the source of "our jobs," and planned to go ahead with their own tax reduction bill.

The President in his "State of the Union" message today again urged enactment of his 10-point anti-inflation program, which includes Government power to allocate and fix prices on scarce materials. He also asked the minimum wage be increased from 40 cents to 75 cents an hour and that the Social Security System be broadened.

N. Y. Tax Extension

(Continued from page 1)

ported that exhibitors may fight the extension of taxes to communities of less than 100,000. The American Theatres Association and the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America unsuccessfully opposed the optional five per cent amusement levy last year.

The Governor announced there would be no tax increases.

UK Probes Films' Effect on Minors

London, Jan. 7.—The British government has appointed a committee to probe the effects of film attendance on children, especially on children's motion picture clubs, and into the organization, conduct and management of such clubs. The government's action follows the representations of educators, sociologists and others that films are potentially harmful to the 500,000 British children who attend theatres weekly.

Foreign Pictures

(Continued from page 1)

midtown New York number 25, including British films.

Among French films currently playing here are "Beauty and the Beast," Lopert; "It Happened at the Inn," M-G-M; "Volpone," Siritzky; "Panic," Tricolore; "The Eternal Return," Discina; "Club de Femmes," Leo Cohen; "Postmaster's Daughter," Vog; "Welldigger's Daughter," Siritzky.

Italian films current here include "Shoe Shine," Lopert; "The Story of Tosca," Superfilm; "Revenge," Distinguished, "To Live in Peace." Also included is the Swedish film, "Torment," Oxford; one from India, "Shakuntala," Mayer-Burstyn, and the Russian film, "The Great Glinka," Artkino.

Current British films, predominantly distributed by Universal-International, include "Black Narcissus," "Frieda," "Nicholas Nickleby," "I Know Where I'm Going," "Great Expectations," "Brief Encounter," "This Happy Breed"; and "Henry V," UA; "The Way Ahead," E-L; "School for Husbands," Hoffberg.

Ansell, Rowland Plan

(Continued from page 1)

action type with a documentary treatment, will be released by Film Classics. Ansell will produce and Rowland will direct.

The first production of the new company, "Women in the Night," is said to be based on actual case histories from the files of the United Nations. It will have its world premiere at the Gotham Theatre here on Saturday. Second picture will be "Medal of Honor," and is scheduled to go into production in mid-March.

Dismissal Suits

(Continued from page 1)

ducers on the employment of subversives and those who do harm to the industry.

Cole seeks damages at the rate of $1,150 weekly for the unspecified remainder of his contract and an injunction compelling M-G-M to reinstate him. Dmytryk is seeking $1,783,435 for alleged loss of salary, while Lardner is asking for $1,382,500.

Patton Expanding

SAN ANDREAS, Cal., Jan. 7.—Purchase of the old Metropolitan Hotel site has been made by Robert Patton, operator of several central valley theatres, who will erect a 500-seat theatre on the location at an estimated cost of $75,000.

Thomas Hearings

(Continued from page 1)

in strategic positions in such a powerful medium of propaganda, education and entertainment as the movies, which draw over 85,000,000 spectators in the United States each week."

Thomas admitted that the industry had fired the 10 employes charged by the committee with Communism, and had "somewhat belatedly" set about putting its house in order. But he made it quite plain he was still not satisfied.

Hits 'Dupes' and 'Innocents'

He again attacked "certain prominent dupes and innocents in the motion picture industry" for aiding and abetting in the campaign against the committee's investigation. Declaring that the scope of the campaign showed the strength and influence of the Communists in the United States, Thomas said "they did not succeed, however, and the recent action of the industry and certain recanting individuals in it, speaks louder than words as to the effectiveness of our hearings."

Exactly what "the very near future" means as far as a date for resuming the Hollywood hearings, Thomas did not say, but apparently it will not be before mid-February, if then. Resumption of the Hollywood probe was listed by Thomas as only one of 12 items on the committee's agenda.

Awaits Court Verdict

Thomas has indicated he wants to delay the Hollywood hearings until at least the first verdict has been returned in the contempt proceedings coming up soon in District Court here.

Thomas listed for hearings before subcommittees late this month the subjects of recent Fascist activity here and legislation to curb Communist activities. Early in February, hearings will get under way before the full committee on subversive propaganda among Negroes. On March 1, the full group will start hearings on Communists illegally in the U. S.

Johnston, on Coast, Plans Talks on Policy on Subversives

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Motion Picture Association president Eric A. Johnston, upon his arrival here today from Spokane, began mapping a series of conferences with studio executives, officials of talent guilds and others on industry problems and projects. Among matters expected to receive special attention during Johnston's 10-day stay is the question of reconciling the views of the guilds and unions with respect to the application of the industry policy on employment of subversives.

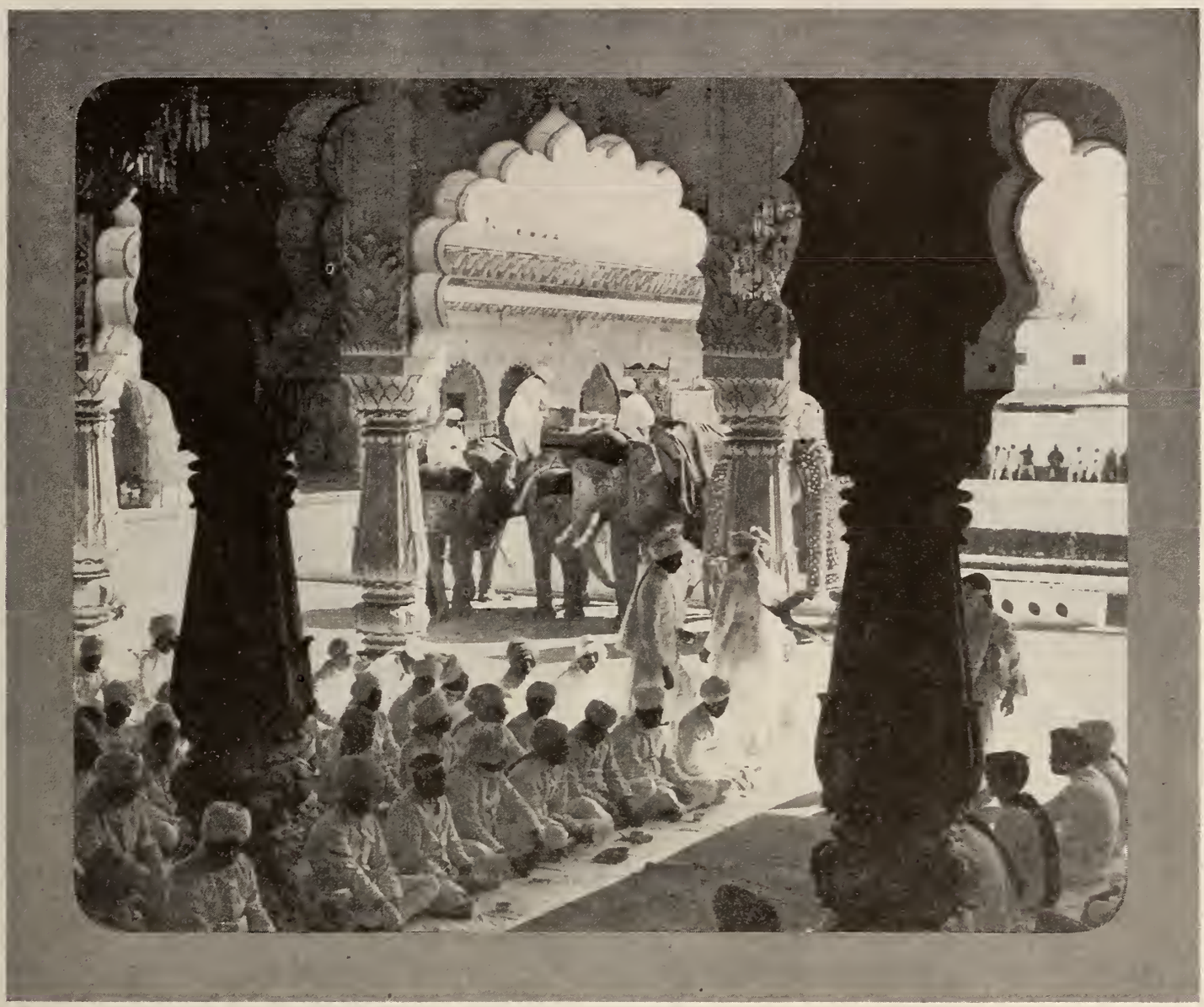
Citations Are Bestowed on 21 'Friendly Witnesses'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—The American Legion last night bestowed citations of honor on 21 "friendly witnesses" who testified before the Thomas House Committee, at ceremonies presided over by national Legion commander James F. O'Neil.

WANTED

Secretary-Editorial assistant for motion picture trade publication. Write giving experience, references, salary desired.

Box 403, Motion Picture Daily





Through him . . . West meets East

ACROSS his "front page" the world parades . . . before the eyes of moviegoers on Main Street. There, West and East *do* meet—through the highly specialized efforts of the newsreel editor.

He sifts the facts and foibles of the world . . . and presents in one short reel the significant, the human, and the odd—the news that helps the world to know itself.

To his objectivity . . . his sense of the newsworthy . . . his feeling for concise and graphic storytelling . . . the newsreel owes its unique place in American journalism.

Yet the newsreel editor would be the first to give due credit to his staff of cameramen . . . and to the Eastman motion picture films which help them cover the news—and help him present it so effectively.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY
ROCHESTER 4, N. Y.

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FORT LEE • CHICAGO • HOLLYWOOD

"Taut, tense melodrama of impending murder. Great entertainment for all types of audiences!"
—Showmen's Trade Review

"'Love From a Stranger' develops into one of the most terrifying thrillers you ever sat through. The suspense of the last part of the picture is almost more than you can stand!"
—N. Y. Daily Mirror



"If you're looking for chills and thrills see 'Love from a Stranger!'" —Hedda Hopper

"Sylvia Sidney always excellent...John Hodiak fine as the menace, building to his killer role skillfully from a quiet, self-effacing type to the maniac!"
—Daily Variety



Eagle Lion Films presents

JOHN HODIAK

SYLVIA SIDNEY

ANN RICHARDS

who found... THERE'S DANGER in

LOVE FROM A STRANGER

With

JOHN HOWARD ISOBEL ELSOM

ERNEST COSSART • PHILIP TONGE • ANITA SHARP-BOLSTER • FREDERIC WORLOCK

Screenplay by Philip MacDonald • From a play by Frank Vosper • Based on a Story by Agatha Christie

DIRECTED BY RICHARD WHORF · PRODUCED BY JAMES J. GELLER



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MOTION PICTURE ASSOC. OF AMERICA,
28 WEST 44TH ST., 21ST FL.
NEW YORK,
N. Y. (3 COPIES)

VOL. 63, NO. 6 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1948 TEN CENTS

Studio Strike Hearing Set In Washington

House Subcommittee Calls Film, Union Heads

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Representative Carroll D. Kearns will open public hearings here Feb. 17 on the Hollywood jurisdictional strikes, at which Motion Picture Association president Eric Johnston and MPA company presidents would appear, along with Hollywood union leaders. Kearns, who is chairman of a House labor sub-committee which has been investigating the studio strikes, said he hoped the week-long hearings would result in "satisfactory settlements of existing jurisdictional strikes in Hollywood."

The Pennsylvania Republican said also that if such results were not obtained the committee would attempt to "fix the responsibility" and "recommend remedial legislation to Congress."

Subpoenas are being issued to presidents and other officers of major

(*Continued on page* 8)

Sorrell Bars Terms Attributed to 'IA'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—Terms under which IATSE assertedly would withdraw claims to jurisdiction over studio painters and communicated by Painters' international president L. P. Lindelof to Herbert K. Sorrell, business agent of Local No. 644, today were denounced by the latter as "the same old deal we could have made a year ago."

Among terms cited by Lindelof were the elimination of Sorrell and

(*Continued on page* 8)

Schmidt Named Col. Ad-Publicity Head

Arthur A. Schmidt, Hollywood advertising counsel for Columbia Pictures and assistant to Harry Cohn, president, since Sept., 1945, yesterday was named director of advertising, publicity and exploitation for Columbia, effective Feb. 15.

Schmidt succeeds Ben H. Serkowich, who resigned after holding the

(*Continued on page* 3)

Univ. Has 40 'Top' Films on Schedule; Cuts Jan. Dividend

Universal will have a minimum of 40 "quality pictures" either for release or in production during 1948, the company said yesterday in a statement to its stockholders.

Simultaneously it was announced that a dividend of 25 cents per share had been voted by the company's board of directors, payable Jan. 31, to holders of record on Jan. 19. The payment compares with a dividend of 50 cents a share paid quarterly by Universal during the past several years. The reduction was effected to conserve cash resources in view of "unsettled

(*Continued on page* 8)

Liebeskind in New Set-up with Gomez

Nat Liebeskind, former general manager of RKO Radio in South America, will enter distribution on his own in Brazil and Argentina shortly through a company organized recently in Mexico City. He will handle American and foreign product.

The Mexican company, Cia Mexicana de Peliculas, is a partnership with Max Gomez, for 10 years manager for RKO Radio in Mexico, and it has made an exclusive deal to handle English, French and Italian product controlled for the Western Hemisphere by Foreign Screen Corp. of New York. Four pictures already have been released. Next is "The Agitator," an anti-Communist film produced by Lou Jackson at the Pathe studios in London.

U. K. STYMIES TAX PEACE: JOHNSTON

Shaffer and Chant Win Quigley Awards

Willis Shaffer, manager of Fox Atchison Theatres, Atchison, Kansas, was the unanimous choice of the judges, for showmanship honors in the fourth quarter of the Quigley Awards for 1947. The decision entitles Shaffer to the silver desk plaque, which he also won in the second quarter of 1947. The special overseas citation, for top honors in the foreign field, went to Len Chant, New Victoria Theatre, Preston, England.

Scroll of Honor winners, in order of preference, are: Mildred FitzGibbons, Roosevelt, Flushing, N. Y.; Bill

(*Continued on page* 3)

Davis Is Managing Director of GCF

John Davis, executive assistant to J. Arthur Rank, has been named managing director and a board member of General Cinema Finance, recently purchased by Rank's Odeon Theatres in England, and which controls the Rank Organization's major production, the Rank office here reports.

Other members of the GCF board include Rank, chairman; Leslie Farrow, Viscount Margesson, J. A. Callum, H. R. Moore, Earl Winterton, and G. I. Woodham Smith.

Says No Settlement of Problem Is in View; Embargo To Continue

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—The present British position affords no basis for detailed negotiations to work out a satisfactory arrangement to replace the *ad valorem* tax, and the British government has given the Motion Picture Export Association no choice except to continue its policy of withholding shipment of pictures to Great Britain until an alternative to the confiscatory tax is worked out, Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, said here yesterday.

He confirmed that London discussions looking toward a settlement of the tax-and-boycott impasse between MPA's F. W. Allport and England's Sir Wilfred Eady "have come to a standstill."

During these preliminary discussions, Johnston said, "the British stood firm on the tax and summarily rejected in principle any alternative to it. They declined," he added, "even to receive or consider mutually beneficial proposals we were prepared to

(*Continued on page* 8)

Del Giudice Arrives Here With 'Reciprocity Idea'

That he is in the United States on his own initiative in a "strictly private capacity" to conduct negotiations on a "reciprocity idea" to encourage a movement of good pictures between this country and the United Kingdom was emphasized by Filippo del Giudice, British film producer, on his arrival in New York yesterday from London on the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth*.

Del Giudice indicated that should his mission succeed, he would test his idea in the marketing of product to be made by his independent producing firm, Pilgrim Pictures, which was incorporated in England last June 1.

The accuracy of press reports that he had been sent to the United States with British government authority to offer a "barter plan" permitting Amer-

(*Continued on page* 8)

President Confirms Allen Appointment

Washington, Jan. 8.—President Truman confirmed today the appointment of George V. Allen, present ambassador to Iran, as Assistant Secretary of State for public affairs. This is the post vacated last Oct. 1 by William Benton.

Allen's tasks will include supervising the State Department's overseas information program, including the film section, and working out some solution of the frozen funds problem.

Film Hearings Top Thomas Unit Agenda

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The Hollywood hearings still have top priority on the House Un-American Activities Committee's agenda, and other hearings now scheduled will be rearranged to make way for the film probe just as soon as a verdict is handed down in the first contempt trial in District Court here, according to a top ranking committee official. This official said that other hearings were being

(*Continued on page* 8)

20th-Fox Lists 22 Of 48 for New Year

Twentieth Century-Fox yesterday listed 22 of its 48 pictures scheduled for the new year as either ready for release, being edited, or in production. The 22 reported by Andy W. Smith, general sales manager, follow:

"Gentleman's Agreement," "Captain

(*Continued on page* 8)

Personal Mention

R. B. WILBY, president of Wilby Theatres, was host at his birthday party yesterday at the Piedmont Driving Club, Atlanta.

•

BURGESS MEREDITH and his wife, PAULETTE GODDARD, will sail for Europe today on the *SS Queen Elizabeth* from New York to personally supervise distribution of CARE aid in Britain, France and, possibly, Italy.

•

E. J. HIEHLE, manager of the Weller Theatre, Zanesville, O., and MRS. HIEHLE are recovering from injuries sustained in an auto accident.

•

ERWIN NEEDLES, son of HENRY L. NEEDLES, Warner district manager in Hartford, has been named account executive at Gross Advertising, that city.

•

MORT NATHANSON, Paramount home office publicist, has been visiting the Atlanta branch from New York.

•

LEO SCHNEXNAYDER, Republic exchange manager in New Orleans, has returned to that city from the Coast.

•

ALBERT DEZEL, president of Albert Dezel Prod., is in Chicago from New York.

Production Code in Italy Is Attacked

ROME, Jan. 4. (By Airmail). — An attack on the Italian Production Code, *Il Codice per la Cinematografia*, has been launched by the Communist newspaper *L'Unità* and the extreme right paper *Risorgimento Liberale*.

The Italian code was adopted in 1945 by Associazione Nazionale Industrie Cinematografiche ed Affini, the association of Italian producers and distributors. The idea of a film code was proposed to leaders of the Italian industry early in 1945 by Martin Quigley, Jr., who was then in Rome attached to Headquarters of the Allied Commission. With the assistance of Quigley, the code was drawn up by Eitel Monaco, general counsel of the ANICA. A number of experts contributed to the adaptation of the American Production Code for the Italian industry.

The recent attacks follow an article in the Rome newspaper, *Il Popolo*, by Giulio Andreotti, Italian Under-Secretary for the Entertainment Industry, in which producers and directors were urged to re-read the code so that films which would have pernicious influence, especially on youth, would not be made.

Scout Drive Co-chairmen

Martin Quigley and John W. Alicoate are co-chairmen of the amusement trade publications committee in support of the 1948 fund-raising campaign for the Boy Scouts of America. Leonard Goldenson and Emil Friedlander are co-chairmen of the amusement division.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

EVERYONE knows that operating a large picture company is a multi-million dollar enterprise. But how many millions?

According to Loew's financial report for the year ending Aug. 31, 1947, M-G-M's production inventory column was a staggering $81,995,730. Films under way accounted for $40,746,845; completed, but unreleased product, another $20,162,298, and films released, less amortization, $21,086,586. With a tidy addition of $7,183,650 representing books and rights, the final reaches a huge $89,179,380, at cost.

■

For the same fiscal period, Warner's inventory was less formidable, but formidable enough, at $45,135,466. Like this: Finished, but as yet unmarketed product was tallied at $24,391,622; production in progress, plus charges to future films, another $10,171,034, and released product, less amortization, $10,572,810. If film rights and unproduced scripts are added on —$2,447,110 in this classification—the total production inventory rises to $47,582,585, at cost.

Or, $136,761,965 for two companies which had a total income of $345,985,036 from distribution, theatre admissions and accessories. In the case of Loew's $176,342,036, the gross included M-G-M Records [phonograph]. Warner's total from the same sources, but not records, ran to $164,643,000.

Big industry, isn't it?

■ ■

The "Movie News Letter," blossoming under Howard Dietz's tutelage as source material for motion picture columnists around the land, is in the mood of Macy's telling Gimbel's or "Miracle on 34th Street." Full of surprises, too, and maybe in the mood of telling too much occasionally.

■

For instance, in what is described as the "How Well Do You Remember 1947?" department, this:

"'Forever Amber' was the most discussed woman of 1947; just as she made her screen debut she tripped over the censors and fell flat on her box-office and the entire industry tripped over the British tax."

And this:

"The big men of the movies who haven't been able to point with too much pride during the past year for fear of having their fingers snapped off will be able once more to feel the pride of achievement."

The Dietz entrepreneurs find the opening months of '48 promising, however. Crediting Metro with the determination once again to lead the production of fewer but better pictures, the newsletter thereafter proceeds to find merit in the product of Metro's competitors, too. Like 20th-Fox, with "another Technicolor super duper in 'Captain from Castile'." Like Paramount, which "will erupt with 'Road to Rio'. Like Universal, which has "a sensational laugh hit in 'The Senator Was Indiscreet'." Like "Brothers Warner have an impressive lineup." Like RKO Radio, which can "do a bit of pointing-with-pride," supported with a list of attractions to go prideful over.

It's different, anyway.

■ ■

"For Immediate Release, Please," is a three-paragraph item from Eagle-Lion in the interest of an attraction titled "Corkscrew Alley." It deals with the "raciest fashion of the season," a strapless nightgown, so-called, which Marsha Hunt presumably wears in the film. Coupled is the precise detail presumably by which Miss Hunt contrives to keep it placed. We spare you the detail.

■

In the first instance, no doubt it's all a pipe dream. In the second, there's no chance of its being included in the released film if it ever got into the produced film. In the third, which is what really counts, the eager ones at Eagle-Lion evidently have to be reminded that motion pictures and peep shows don't mix. Nor are motion pictures to be thrown into dubious association with the strip-tease and burlesque. Not ever, and certainly not in 1948.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR 7th Ave. & 47th St.
20th CENTURY-FOX

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK - Ann TODD - Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN - Ethel BARRYMORE and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

BOB HOPE
SIGNE HASSO
WM. BENDIX
in "WHERE THERE'S LIFE" A Paramount Picture
in Person STAN KENTON And His Orchestra JUNE CHRISTY Erin VIC DAMONE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
JOHN WAYNE · LARAINE DAY in
TYCOON
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

IT'S GOT THAT ACADEMY AWARD LOOK!
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY LORETTA DAVID
GRANT · YOUNG · NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY DOLORES PEDRO
FONDA · DEL RIO · ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

The THEATRE GUILD presents the RKO RADIO PICTURE
"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA"
TWICE DAILY 2:30 and 8:30 PM
3 PERFORMANCES SUNDAY at 2:00, 5:15 and 8:30 PM
RESERVED SEATS ONLY
GOLDEN THEATRE 45th St. W. of B'way

WALT DISNEY'S
Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

Joan CRAWFORD Dana ANDREWS Henry FONDA
"DAISY KENYON"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus On Stage — Lanny Ross - Wiere Bros. Beatrice Kraft & Co. - Hollace Shaw Senor Wences
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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Weaker White Bill In Congress Is Due

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. — Senate Commerce Committee is all set to report a watered-down version of the White Bill to rewrite the Federal Communications Act.

Senator White has talked with Senate kingpin Taft and received his promise to bring the bill to the Senate floor early in this session.

The bill supposedly has been rewritten to meet most of the barrage of objections laid down by the radio and allied industries during hearings last year. The industry reportedly wants a bill, and is counting on the more-conservative House to knock out some of the sections to which it still objects, including the section allowing the FCC to consider a station's previous programming in renewing or not renewing its license. House action on the bill remains the big question mark.

One of the more controversial sections of the original White House Bill that has been removed in the new version is that limiting the number of stations any one company could hold to stations covering 25 per cent of the population. Now there is no limit on ownership in the law. Most of the network regulations have also been eliminated, and the sections on identification of news sources have been toned down. A new feature permits direct appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court whenever a license is revoked or not renewed.

11,500,000 in Japan See U. S. Product

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. — More than 11,500,000 Japanese have attended showings of 11 U. S. government and privately produced documentary films since July 1, 1946, the U. S. Army reports. The 11 have been shown some 220,000 times.

The list includes: "Winged Scourge," "Steeltown," "Power and the Land," "Hymn of the Nation," "Northwest USA," "Trees to Tame the Wind," "Freedom to Learn," "A Better Tomorrow," "Tuesday in November," "Library of Congress" and "Journey into Medicine."

Schmidt Named

(*Continued from page* 1)

post since Jan., 1946. The company announced his resignation "with regret." Schmidt entered the industry as a theatre manager in Indianapolis, joined the old First National in an exploitation capacity; was advertising-publicity director for Paramount Michigan theatres and, prior to World War II, in which he served in the Navy, was with Loew's Theatres advertising-publicity department.

Serkowich entered the industry in 1919. He was in charge of advertising-publicity for Balaban and Katz in 1924, later joining Publix and RKO Theatres department. Prior to his affiliation with Columbia he was in charge of promotion at the Capitol Theatre, New York.

TUNE IN
"STORM IN A TEACUP"
NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th
FORD HOUR — N B C
Then Call Your Local Devonshire Man and Book the Picture Starring
REX HARRISON — VIVIEN LEIGH
DEVONSHIRE FILM COMPANY
185 Devonshire Street Boston, Mass.

News Briefs . . .

J. ARTHUR RANK soon will ask British film leaders to plan a permanent commission for the production of films aimed at promoting interfaith goodwill and understanding, he has announced in London. A conference toward this end is being arranged, and representatives of all branches of the British industry will be invited to attend.

Rank said the projected goodwill films will seek particularly to promote the objectives of the International Council of Christians and Jews, now being formed. He added that the proposed productions will be tied up with other film projects in the field of religious education.

Schwalberg, Youngstein Leave For Eagle-Lion Coast Talks

A. W. Schwalberg, Eagle-Lion general sales manager, and Max Youngstein, advertising-publicity head, left here for the Coast yesterday to join other company executives in conferences on regional sales policies on "T-Men" and to preview all completed product.

Others taking part in the talks will be Arthur Krim, Bryan Foy, Harold Dunn, Frank Soule, Sam Israel, Western division sales executives, including Herman Beiersdorf, Western sales manager, and Del Goodman, West Coast division manager.

NBC Show on Sunday to Mark USO Farewell, Salute Successor

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—An all-star half-hour show over the NBC network from here will mark the disbandment of the United Service Organizations on Sunday. At the same time the program will salute the new Veterans' Hospital Camp Shows, successor to the USO. Talent will consist of players who entertained service men during World War II.

New Import Firm

American distribution rights to "A Lover's Return" have been acquired by Westport International Films, Inc., newly-formed distribution firm of French and Italian pictures.

N. Y. Directors Convene Jan. 17

Third annual convention of the Screen Directors Guild of New York will be held at the Hotel Astor here on Jan. 17. Elections will be held. Bud Pollard, president, will preside.

ABC Promotes Oberfelder

American Broadcasting has named Theodore I. Oberfelder director of advertising and promotion. He was formerly assistant director of advertising.

Radiant Names Krueger

NEWARK, Jan. 8.—Carl L. Krueger, with Paramount in Detroit for 13 years, and more recently with the Jam Handy Organization, has been appointed West Coast district manager of the Radiant Lamp Corp., which has headquarters here.

Lippert Now Has 37

STOCKTON, Cal., Jan. 8. — Acquisition of the Imperial Theatre has been announced by the Robert L. Lippert circuit, bringing it to 37 theatres throughout Northern California and Oregon. The house was formerly operated by R. Thomas.

MANAGER for the Kansas City unit of Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Kansas and Missouri, which recently engaged and furnished headquarters at 18th and Wyandotte in Kansas City's Film Row, will be selected soon, it was disclosed following a board meeting there yesterday. The new quarters will be opened formally to serve members next Monday with Dorothy Murphy, office secretary, in charge. The Allied Caravan will start there immediately, it was also disclosed.

Petersen Becomes Mann District Chief

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 8. — Dave Petersen moves in as district manager for George Mann's Redwood and Trinity theatres in Humboldt County. Petersen has been affiliated with Redwood Theatres for the past 12 years. Earl Baughman, formerly in the Humboldt berth, has been appointed district manager in Modesto.

Other managerial changes in the territory include the transfer of Harry Schlinker from the San Pedro Playhouse to Warners' Fresno Theatre, where he succeeds Harry Olmstead who has held that post for the past five years. Olmstead goes to Huntington Park as Warner manager there.

Masterpiece Product Is Acquired by Albert Dezel

DETROIT, Jan. 8.—Acquisition of distribution rights to all Masterpiece productions, has been announced by Albert Dezel, president of Albert Dezel Productions, for Dezel's branches in Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Detroit, Cleveland and Cincinnati.

Dezel's line-up also includes product from Screen Guild, Lopert, and Film Classic's Goldwyn, Selznick and Roach product.

New United Palestine Appeal Film to Be Released Soon

"Birthday of a Prophecy," the United Palestine Appeal's latest film, which deals with the building of the Jewish state, will be released shortly throughout the nation. The picture, shot in color, was produced by Affiliated Films.

Two New Theatre Firms

HARTFORD, Jan. 8.—Two new Connecticut corporations have filed certificates of organization, Elmwood Theatre Corp., New Britain, with Peter, Sperie, Peter, Jr., John and Steve Perakos as incorporators, and Yale-Star Amusement, Inc., New Haven, with Charles Costellen, Henry Cosenza and L. Chiappo as incorporators.

Transmitter for WB

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8. — Extensive plans for the use of medium frequency radio transmission to production units in the field is being planned at Warners under the supervision of Nathan Levinson, head of the sound department.

Seitz Plans Fourth

SANDUSKY, O., Jan. 8.—The Seitz interests, owners and operators of the State, Plaza and Sandusky theatres plan the immediate construction of a 500-car outdoor theatre, to be built by George Petersen of Cleveland.

Argentine Film Festival in March

Washington, Jan. 8. — The Argentine film industry will hold its first film festival in March, 1948, according to Commerce Department film consultant Nathan D. Golden.

The festival, to be held at Mar del Plata, will be solely for national production, and will feature a special "Argentine Film Week," during which all theatres will be requested to exhibit only domestic films. Preparations are already being made, Golden said, for an international festival in 1949, with all producing countries invited.

Good Record Earns Financing: Bogeaus

Number of independent producers in Hollywood is being reduced to those having a "background of stability and a record of performance," Benedict Bogeaus, producer for United Artists, said here yesterday. Such producers, Bogeaus asserted, can get financial backing from banks.

Bogeaus said he has just turned over to U.A. his new "A Miracle Could Happen," adding he would probably make several more for U.A. this year. "Miracle" is set for release in late February or early March.

Bogeaus said that if independents are to remain in business, they must reduce production costs without impairing film quality. He suggested shorter shooting time and greater selectiveness in material. Top talent in time will realize that it, too, must contribute to lowered costs, he said.

He has a picture based on the life of Charles Dickens now in the writing stage. Bogeaus will return to the Coast next week.

Jack Votion To Produce

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Jack Votion, hitherto production representative in Europe for RKO Radio, is leaving the company to produce independently a series of six pictures based on the life of Dick Turpin, Britain's legendary bandit. Votion reports he has studio space and world-wide distribution set, with announcement of both to be made later.

Margolies Names Peirce

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—William Peirce, Jr. has been engaged as publicity head of Transatlantic's production "Rope" being made at Warners under the direction of Alfred Hitchcock. Peirce is en route here from New York following conferences with Albert Margolies, Transatlantic's public relations chief.

Shaffer, Chant Win

(*Continued from page* 1)

Hastings, Orpheum, Denver; Phil Katz, Kenyon, Pittsburgh; W. V. Novak, Capitol, Winnipeg, Canada. Louis Nye, Hoosier, Whiting, Ind.; Trevor F. Kerridge, St. James, Auckland, New Zealand; L. Stanley Hodnett, Gaumont, Middlesbrough, England.

Just as we predicted, "WALK" has started TALK* about Hal Wallis' greatest



Showmen's Trade Review says:
☛ "Splendid boxoffice. Fine performances, top production and skillful direction make it absorbing, action-packed entertainment for everybody."

Louella Parsons in Cosmopolitan Magazine says:
☛ "One of the best pictures of this type. Great entertainment. I give it an award."

Film Bulletin says:
☛ "Tense, spine-tingling, closely-knit, sumptuously mounted, it will roll up handsome boxoffice returns."

Variety says:
☛ "Suspenseful, hard-boiled melodrama. Tension hits hard...to unfold gutty action, red-meat ingredients . . . potent values."

Daily Variety says:
☛ "A-plus for thrills. Gangster stuff streamlined and brought up to date with new twists—looks like ready cash in boxoffice. Production of **Hal Wallis,** strictly on the deluxe side, is tops in mounting and showmanship. Fight scene as fully realistic a bit of mayhem as the screen will take."

Hollywood Reporter says:
☛ "Conspicuous accomplishment is that it brings the Wallis discoveries of the last few seasons together in the same picture. Each puts his best foot forward. **Lancaster** does excellent job. **Scott** cuts attractive figure. **Kirk Douglas** dominates his every scene. **Wendell Corey** excellent and **Kristine Miller** colorful."



And there'll be more* **TALK *about its sensational torch-song, "Don't Call It Love," recorded by top-flight singing stars for top-drawer radio promotion.*

LAUNCHING
Paramount's
PARAMOUNT YEAR

masterpiece of suspense!

BURT LANCASTER

LIZABETH SCOTT In

HAL WALLIS' Production

"She's soft . . . and beautiful . . . and double-crossing!..."

"I WALK ALONE"

Here's more entertainment than the screen has known . . . when a man with a gun tangles with a woman twice as deadly!



With

WENDELL COREY
KIRK DOUGLAS
KRISTINE MILLER

And

George Rigaud · Marc Lawrence
Mike Mazurki · Mickey Knox

Directed by Byron Haskin

Screenplay by Charles Schnee • Adaptation by Robert Smith and John Bright • Based upon an original play "Beggars Are Coming To Town" by Theodore Reeves • Produced on the Stage by Oscar Serlin

Double with "A DO

LOOK at these rave reviews...

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

Accurate Concise and Important

"The greatest performance in Ronald Colman's long career . . . a powerful, fascinating attraction which is sure to make its mark in any market."

SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

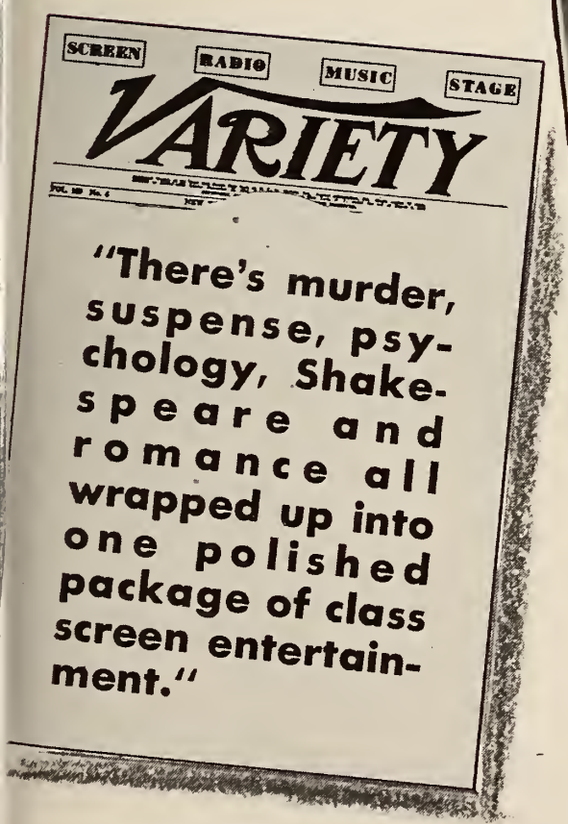
"...should attract initial customers ...word-of-mouth will keep others coming."

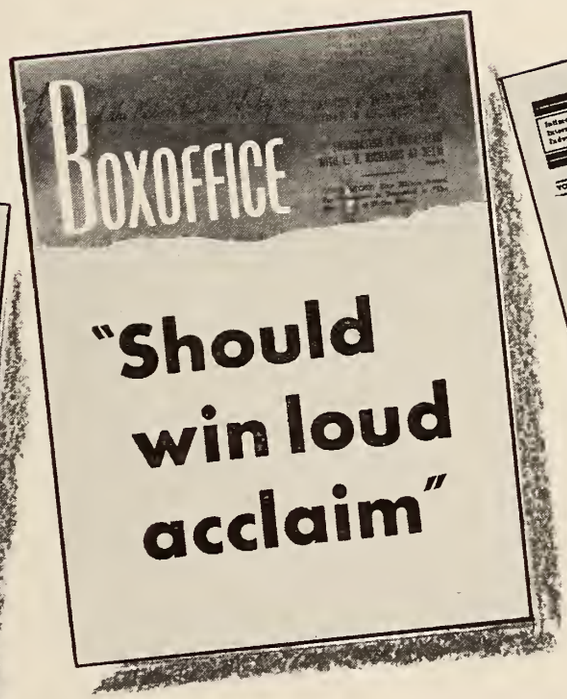


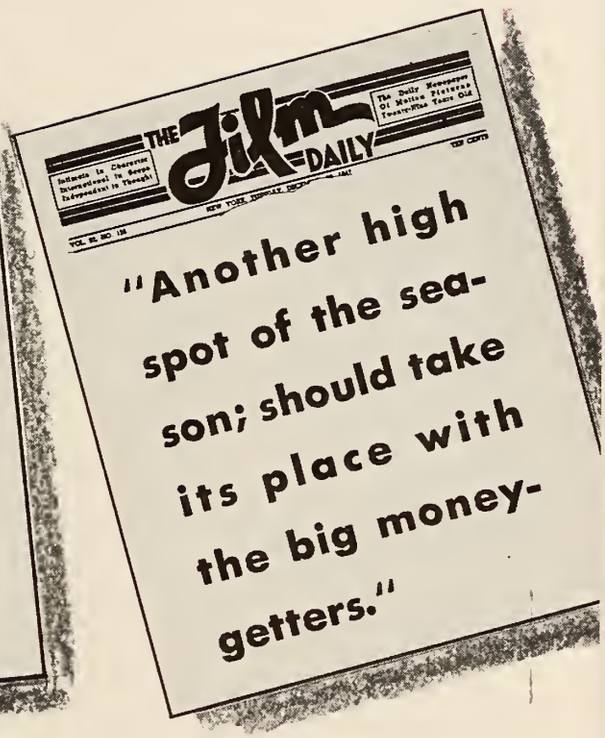
"Impressive marquee names and exploitation angles, sensibly designed to hit wide and popular appeal. Should have an especially lucrative take."

Universal International

Business
UBLE LIFE"







KANIN PRODUCTIONS Presents

Ronald Colman

giving NEW greatness to the Screen in

"A DOUBLE LIFE"

with

SIGNE HASSO · EDMOND O'BRIEN

SHELLEY WINTERS · RAY COLLINS · PHILIP LOEB

Written by RUTH GORDON *and* GARSON KANIN

Directed by GEORGE CUKOR · *Produced by* MICHAEL KANIN

A Universal-International Release

Third Bordanaro On Stand in Trust Suit

BUFFALO, Jan. 8.—Seeking to show that major film producers discriminated against him in offering their product for exhibition, Anthony X. Bordanaro, one-time manager of the Palace Theatre in Olean, N. Y., today told a Federal Court jury of conversations he had with branch managers and other company officials, including Elmer F. Lux, former RKO branch manager and now a city official.

The third Bordanaro on the stand in as many days in their $300,000 damage action against the five major producing-distributing companies and a half dozen subsidiaries, today's witness asserted that in 1946 he asked Lux why the Palace had been denied the opportunity to continue to purchase a selection of the company's short subjects for exhibition at Saturday matinees. Lux replied, according to Bordanaro, that Max Friedman, Warner representative, had protested, and that he couldn't do anything about it because Friedman "was his account."

In 1942, Bordanaro also asserted, Sydney Samson, 20th Century-Fox representative here, told him "Kid, your brother has gone in the Army and your father and uncle are growing old, so why don't you do the right thing and arrange to have a national organization take it [the Palace] over?"

Bordanaro will be cross-examined tomorrow.

In cross-examination yesterday, Benedict A. Bordanaro told of exhibiting "Gone With the Wind," "Mrs. Miniver," "Meet Me in St. Louis" and "The Jolson Story"—all so-called big box-office attractions—at the Palace. When asked by Edward C. Raftery, New York attorney who was formerly president of United Artists and is representing Universal and UA in this suit, about the supply of Universal films made available to him, the witness said he was given a selection of pictures on "a quantity-wise but not quality-wise" basis.

Univ. Has 40

(*Continued from page* 1)

conditions throughout the world and their uncertain effects upon the company's business," it was stated.

Stockholders were assured that Universal "is in strong financial condition with a ratio of current and working assets to current liabilities of approximately eight to one."

The statement said that Universal is maintaining full production with 25 "top quality" pictures scheduled for production this year and 15 others available for release or in final editing stages.

Universal has already effected "substantial reduction in cost of its product and in operating cost without loss of efficiency or reduction of quality," the company's statement said.

Two New Coast Runs

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 8.—Walter Preddy, local theatre supply man, will open another theatre soon in Galt, in partnership with Schauer and Spiess, real estate brokers. At Vallejo, opening of the New Rita Theatre, 1,000-seat neighborhood house, was held recently. The theatre is owned and operated by Ray Syufy, formerly associated with M. Naify of T. and D. Jr. Enterprises.

Review

"The Gay Ranchero"

(Republic)

THE traditional Western gets some ultra modern trimmings here, with the villains hi-jacking airplane shipments of gold. Heading the cast of this musical Western is Roy Rogers, and that should be enough for any showman of Westerns, as Rogers has for the fifth consecutive year been voted No. 1 "Money-Maker" in the Western stars division in the *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* poll. Supplied with mirth and music, and photographed in Trucolor, the cast is rounded out by Tito Guizar, Jane Frazee, Andy Devine and Estelita Rodriguez.

At the bottom of the disappearance of the gold shipments and the destruction of the planes is the desire of the villains to get control of the airways and convert it for gambling. The usual action and gunplay is involved before Rogers finally clears up matters. The plot also concerns a lovers' quarrel between Guizar and Miss Rodriguez, the former a bullfighter, and the latter a dancer and singer of talented parts. A lot of comic business and complications pass before the film reaches a happy finale. It all turns into a merry romp, with singing from almost every quarter, including Bob Nolan and the Sons of the Pioneers. Original screenplay by Sloan Nibley has customary, but proven situations. William Witney directed with Edward J. White as associate producer.

Running time, 72 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 10.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Del Giudice in U. S.

(*Continued from page* 1)

ican and English distributors to retain 75 per cent of profits from each other's films as a possible solution of the tax situation was disputed by Del Giudice.

"I am here to undertake purely private negotiations which can, in my opinion, be very useful," he said. "If I succeed, it will establish a valuable precedent for all concerned."

Application of his reciprocity proposal would be governed by the merits of each picture, Del Giudice explained. He could not say whether such a proposal would be a violation of the American film embargo against Great Britain. He expressed the belief that his idea would not be hindered by the tax situation.

Del Giudice said that Pilgrim Pictures, of which he is managing director, would limit itself to four or five films a year, each to cost between $800,000 and $1,200,000.

Del Giudice, who was accompanied by Alan Jarvis, a member of the Pilgrim board, is expected to go to the Coast at the end of the month.

Other arrivals on the *Queen Elizabeth* were James E. Perkins, Paramount foreign executive; William Pereira and Noel Coward. Pereira was in England to plan for the production there of the RKO-Rank picture, "The Captain Was a Lady." He will leave for Hollywood tomorrow.

22 of 20th's 48

(*Continued from page* 1)

from Castile," "Forever Amber," "Daisy Kenyon," "An Ideal Husband," "Call Northside 777," "You Were Meant for Me," "The Tender Years," "Sitting Pretty," "Summer Lightning," "Fury at Furace Creek," "Escape," "Green Grass of Wyoming," "Deep Water," "The Snake Pit," "Give My Regards to Broadway," "That Lady in Ermine," "The Walls of Jericho," "The Iron Curtain," "Street with No Name," "The Chair for Martin Rome" and "Apartment for Peggy."

Canada Circuit Pays $1

OTTAWA, Jan. 8.—Eastern Theatres, Ltd., has declared a dividend of $1, payable Feb. 7 to shareholders of record on Jan. 15.

U. K. Stymies

(*Continued from page* 1)

offer to reduce Britain's dollar expenditures for films while at the same time maintaining an uninterrupted flow of pictures desired by British audiences and required by British exhibitors to keep their theatres open."

Johnston said that the American industry is, however, prepared to negotiate at any time with the British government on tax alternatives, "as we always have been."

Tax Bars Operations in UK

"It is impossible," Johnston explained, "to operate in Britain under the harsh terms of the tax, as the facts on our revenues from that country clearly demonstrate. Even before the Dalton 75 per cent tax was imposed, five out of every six dollars taken in at British box-offices for American films were being kept in Britain as British taxes, British wages and British profits.

"In other words," he continued, "the maximum amount possible to return to the United States was only 17 cents out of every dollar. But out of this 17 cents, production and operational costs had to be paid. The 75 per cent tax would cut the 17 cents to four cents, out of which production and operational costs would have to come, leaving a net deficit to the industry.

'Other Onerous Burdens' in Levy

"Moreover," the MPA president said, "the tax imposes other onerous burdens. It requires the companies to put up with the government as taxes three-fourths of the estimated revenues when a picture is imported and before it is shown. This requirement to pay millions of dollars in taxes in advance of earnings would add substantially to our cost of operations.

"In light of these facts, we cannot understand how any responsible official of the British government could expect us to do business under the tax. We are equally baffled by the British attitude because of our oft-repeated assurances to the British government that we were most anxious to find an accommodation that would ease Britain's dollar stringency," Johnston said.

Studio Strike Probe

(*Continued from page* 1)

companies, Kearns said, and he also expects the attendance of the presidents of the unions involved, who will bring with them "one or more Hollywood representatives of their unions."

Kearns, who expects to conduct the hearings alone, said that William L. Hutcheson, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, and Paul Dullzell, of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, would testify. In addition, he stated, he expected the presidents of the teamsters, painters, electrical workers, plumbers, building service employes, machinists, hod carriers and operating engineers unions, and Richard F. Walsh, head of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, would be called to testify.

The Kearns sub-committee previously conducted investigations on the subject in Hollywood and held public hearings in Los Angeles last August. Much of the testimony received at that time was conflicting, Kearns indicated, and stated he hoped the February hearing would clarify it.

Sorrell Bars Terms

(*Continued from page* 1)

"four or five others." "I'd resign any time it would help my fellow workers, but not at the instigation of strike-breakers and racketeers," Sorrell said.

The letter from Lindelof did not offer recommendations and said the information had "reached me from IATSE" but did not name any individuals.

Meanwhile, following a telephonic conference with IATSE president Richard F. Walsh, international representative Roy Brewer issued a statement declaring that no discussions had been held between Lindelof and IATSE officers. He added that settlement could only be reached by agreement between the international presidents to provide against recurrence of the type of trouble accountable for the last two studio strikes.

Film Hearings Top

(*Continued from page* 1)

scheduled first only to fill in the time until the committee can see how the court proceedings go and that once this is made clear, the Hollywood hearings will be scheduled for immediate resumption. The official made this statement in answer to questions on just when the committee could fit in the film hearings in view of hearings now scheduled by Chairman Thomas.

Thomas today set Feb. 5 as the date for beginning two weeks of hearings looking toward legislation to curb Communists in this country.

Attorney General Tom Clark will be first witness at the legislation hearings, to be held by a subcommittee, headed by Rep. Nixon. The most likely bill to result from the hearings is one introduced by committee member Mundt requiring Communists to register as agents of a foreign government.

Acquires Rights to Three

Harry Goldstone of Famous Pictures Film Exchange has acquired Screencraft Pictures distribution rights in Metropolitan New York for three former RKO releases produced by Sol Lesser. The pictures are: "Fisherman's Wharf," "Escape to Paradise," and "Way Down South."

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 7 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1948 TEN CENTS

Set Talks on US Producing In Dominion

Fitzgibbons To Represent Industry at Howe Confabs

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—As chairman of a committee representing the film industry, J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp. is scheduled to visit Ottawa tomorrow to confer with the government's C. D. Howe on arrangements for film production in Canada by Hollywood companies under the dollar-saving program of the Dominion.

The suggestion originally came from Howe, who is charged with the responsibility of enforcing import restrictions to conserve Canada's cash. It is his theory that U.S. production should be developed in Canada to reduce the flow of money across the

(*Continued on page 4*)

Government Files Scophony Brief

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The Department of Justice told the Supreme Court in a brief filed over the weekend that Scophony, Ltd., was doing business in the Southern district of New York and was therefore within the district for purposes of suit under the anti-trust laws.

The Government pointed out that Scophony had entered into exclusive licensing arrangements with two com-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Dutch Govt. Urges 45% Ticket Levy

Amsterdam, Holland, Jan. 4 (By Air Mail).—The Dutch Minister of the Interior has advised all municipalities to raise their entertainment taxes to 45 per cent of the gross. The present rate is 20 per cent, which will be maintained for the performances of stage plays.

The government's desires have raised a storm of protest from exhibitors, who point out that there is now a very noticeable decline in theatre business. Business in Amsterdam in 1947 was off about 25 per cent from 1946.

Illinois UTO Joins TOA; Reelects Zorn

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 11.—United Theatre Owners of Illinois voted at the weekend to affiliate with the Theatre Owners of America, and elected George Kerasotas national TOA director. The action was taken at the final session of the organization's two-day convention here which saw re-election of Edward Zorn as president along with all other officers of UTOI.

Also highlighting the convention were discussions on public service, public relations and self-protection against excessive taxation. Some 150 attended.

The case for TOA affiliation was presented to the gathering by Robert Coyne, TOA executive director, Herman Levy, general counsel and Fred Wehrenberg, board chairman.

Zorn in his annual report stressed

(*Continued on page 2*)

589 Theatres Are In Detroit Exchange

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—There are 589 theatres with a seating capacity of 435,830 currently in operation in the Detroit exchange territory, according to a new theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of American is releasing today.

The 20th in a series of 31 directories, it reveals that 212 theatres with a capacity of 208,804, are in the area's three largest cities: Detroit, Grand Rapids and Flint. Detroit has 167 theatres, with a capacity of 172,459, or an average of 1,033 seats per house.

In the Detroit territory, 151 theatres are located in 147 towns with a population of 2,500 and under. These account for a total capacity of 55,034, or an average of 365 seats per theatre.

Production on Coast Is at a Record Low

Hollywood, Jan. 11. — The production level has sunk to a record low of 18, against 22 last week. Only four new films were started, while eight were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "Let's Fall in Love," Columbia; "The Spiritualist," Eagle-Lion; "The Timber Trail" and an untitled Bill Elliott, both Republic. Shooting finished on "Gallant Blade," Columbia; "The Cobra Strikes," "Assigned to Danger" and "Rampage" (Crestview), Eagle-Lion; "Sealed Verdict," Paramount; "Recoil," Republic; "The Window," RKO Radio, and "That Lady in Ermine," 20th Century-Fox.

Senate to Debate Mundt Bill Friday

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The Senate on Friday made the Mundt bill the pending order of business, and scheduled floor debate to start on it next Friday.

The bill, which authorizes the State Department's overseas information service, has been already approved by the House.

Originally it had been hoped that the bill could be used by the State Department as authority for putting into effect a solution of the industry's frozen funds problem. However, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee dropped this plan.

Film Producers Look to Radio for New Material

The motion picture industry is described as displaying new interest in radio as a source of story material as a result of Columbia Broadcasting System's decision to make its scripts available for the screen, reports Nathan L. Halpern, assistant to the network's president, Frank Stanton.

All majors have submitted requests to look at the CBS material available, Halpern said, expressing the possibility that the potential success of the project might create a trend by film producers to radio material for screen stories.

The proposal now applies to current and future properties as well as scripts aired over the past 20 years. Halpern disclosed that the network is preparing to present future programs to film companies for consideration as screen vehicles.

The large pre-sold audience provided by radio, an audience that often totals 30,000,000 in the case of certain programs, is believed by Halpern to be a factor in the film industry's interest in the network's plan.

It was revealed that already one CBS property, "The Argyle Album," one of the "Suspense" mystery dramas, has been disposed of, the buyer being a new producing company, Eronel Production.

Less Than 20 New US Films Now in Britain

May Be Exhausted By March; Reissues Appear

The supply of unreleased Hollywood features in Great Britain has dwindled to less than a two months' supply.

On Aug. 7, when the British Treasury issued its order imposing a 300 per cent ad *valorem duty* on imported films, payable at the time of their importation, some 125 new U.S. pictures were on hand in England and, therefore, not subject to the tax. No American films have been sent to England since and it is estimated now that fewer than 20 unreleased American films remain.

British theatre attendance has declined for the past several months with the result that runs of both British and American films were shortened and more than the normal amount of product was consumed.

Reissues have already made their

(*Continued on page 4*)

Alternate Tax Basis Cited by BFPA Head

LONDON, Jan. 11.—Although holding to the principle of the *ad valorem* film tax, the British government is "willing to discuss adjustments which would allow the American industry to retain revenues earned in the United States by British pictures in addition to amounts earned here by American pictures after the *ad valorem* duty has been paid, according to Sir Henry French, president of the British Film Producers Association.

The statement, issued by the BFPA, added that French recognizes this as an important clarification of the atti-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Contempt Trials To Start on Feb. 9

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Ten Hollywood figures indicted for contempt of Congress pleaded not guilty Friday and were ordered to stand separate trials in Federal District Court here beginning Feb. 9.

John Howard Lawson is slated for the first trial at that time and will be followed on Feb. 16 by screen

(*Continued on page 4*)

News Briefs

COMPLETE denial of charges contained in the Government's anti-trust suit filed last August has been made by Technicolor in an answer filed in U. S. District Court in Los Angeles.

Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, Technicolor president, declared, "The Technicolor process has been evolved through more than 25 years of achievement and the expenditure of millions of dollars for research, and not by the purchase or absorption of other companies."

Fight Over Canadian 20% Admission Levy Is Resumed

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—After being re-elected for a fourth term, Mayor Robert Saunders of Toronto has resumed his personal crusade against theatres by urging the Dominion government to relinquish its 20 per cent war tax on grosses and earmark it for municipalities.

Meanwhile, the National Committee of Moving Picture Exhibitor Associations of Canada, of which J. J. Fitzgibbons is chairman, is campaigning for the abolishment of the Federal tax, without an alternative levy.

USO-Camp Shows Is Given "Honorable Discharge" by Truman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—USO-Camp Shows, which has been disbanded, being succeeded by Veterans' Hospital Camp Shows, was awarded an "honorable discharge" on Friday from President Truman. Among those who witnessed the ceremony were Abe Lastfogel and Lawrence Phillips, president and vice-president, respectively, of the two organizations, and directors of the USO.

Hannibal Regional Theatre Meeting Delayed to Jan. 29

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 11.—The Hannibal, Mo., regional meeting of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois has been postponed from Jan. 15 to Jan. 29 because of the Jan. 14 meeting of the Motion Picture Foundation's finance unit in New York.

New Consolidated Theatres Stock

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—Consolidated Theatres, an affiliate of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has made a public offer of 73,500 shares of class "A" stock at $9.50 per share, plus a fractional class "B" stock bonus, the dividend rate to be 50 cents per year. The company has theatres in Montreal.

John Tassos Quits 20th-Fox

John Tassos has resigned his post with 20th-Fox in Bogota, Colombia, to become an executive of Hudgins, Inc., owners of one of the larger islands in the Florida keys which will be developed into a resort, it was disclosed here at the weekend.

Bar Theatre Parking

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 11. — A state fire regulation prohibiting parking in front of theatres, churches, hotels and other public places has been held valid by attorney general Eldon S. Dummit.

Personal Mention

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew treasurer and vice-president, is due in Hollywood today from New York.

•

BARBARA ANNE AARON, daughter of M-G-M assistant general sales manager EDWIN W. AARON, and HERBERT S. NUSBAUM, former M-G-M home office and Monogram studio legal aide, have announced their engagement. MISS AARON is a member of the Eagle-Lion publicity department here.

•

NATHAN HALPERN, assistant to Columbia Broadcasting president FRANK STANTON, has postponed his trip to the Coast from New York until Friday.

•

MURRAY GOLDSTEIN, Columbia artist, and MRS. GOLDSTEIN have become parents of a daughter born at Mt. Eden Hospital here.

•

MOE KERMAN, Favorite Films president, will leave here Wednesday for Los Angeles for a meeting with franchise holders.

•

IRVING KAHN, 20th Century-Fox radio manager, left here over the weekend for Cincinnati.

•

HAL E. CHESTER, Allied Artists producer, has returned to the Coast from Oklahoma City.

•

JAY EISENBERG, M-G-M sales-legal liaison, will leave here next week for the South.

MERVYN LeROY, M-G-M director, is expected here today from the Coast.

•

LARRY MORRIS, general manager and film buyer for B. S. Moss Enterprises, here, and MRS. MORRIS are parents of a daughter born at Doctor's Hospital, New York.

•

TERRY TURNER, RKO Radio national exploitation director, left here yesterday for a tour of exchanges in the United States and Canada.

•

HERMAN RIPPS, assistant Eastern sales manager, is on a tour of New England exchanges from Albany, N. Y.

•

JACK NELSON, manager of Famous Players' Capitol Theatre in North Bay, Ontario, has been elected an alderman in that city.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER, head of M-G-M's theatre auditing division, has returned here from New Haven.

•

OLIVER A. UNGER, vice-president of Distinguished Films, has left here for Europe.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion head, returned here at the weekend from Springfield, Ill.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations director, is due back in New York today from Springfield, Ill.

Scully and Bergman To Coast Confabs

William A. Scully, Universal-International distribution vice-president, and Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director, left New York at the weekend for Hollywood for a series of studio conferences on forthcoming releases.

Following the conferences, Scully will launch a series of sales meetings with the company's field forces. The first meeting is to be held in San Francisco, followed by meetings in New Orleans and Chicago. Bergman will accompany Scully to the regionals.

Grant 20th-Fox Motion

New York State Supreme Court Justice Henry Clay Greenberg has granted 20th Century-Fox its motion to preclude arbitration proceedings by the Screen Publicists Guild growing out of the firing of nine people by the company in August. It was held that under the guild contract, discharges for economic or business reasons are not arbitrable.

50 FM Stations a Month

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—New FM stations will go on the air during 1948 at the average rate of 50 per month, officials of the FM Association predicted at a meeting with the Radio Manufacturers Association.

'Sleep, My Love' Held Aid in Drug Control

ALBANY, Jan. 11.—In announcing he would introduce a bill tomorrow to rigidly control the sale of sleeping pills, N. Y. State Senator Thomas C. Desmond said on Friday that the drive to strengthen drug laws stands to be "enormously helped" by United Artists' release of "Sleep, My Love."

The legislator asserted the film "will highlight the need for more rigid control of barbiturate and hypnotic drugs." The production was seen by Desmond's staff at a recent preview in New York.

Illinois UTO

(Continued from page 1)

the importance of more careful attention to the problem of municipal taxation. He deplored "petty industry economies" as not adequate to keep film prices within the exhibitor's reach.

Senator C. F. Carpentier, UTOI's national legislative representative, told the group that their failure to develop good public relations in their individual communities handicaps their legislative "friends."

Other speakers were Claude Mundo, president of the Independent Theatre Owners of Arkansas; Leon Bamberger, RKO Radio; Henderson M. Richey, M-G-M, and producer Charles (Buddy) Rogers.

Newsreel Parade

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S report to Congress highlights newsreel events. Other items include King Michael in exile, and sports and fashions. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 3—President Truman reports to Congress on the "State of the Union." Michael of Rumania forced to abdicate by Reds. Government seizes contraband TNT headed for Palestine. Jumping. Golden Gloves.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 237—President Truman's report to Congress. Marines answer call to duty. Bonus for war vets. Male jury tests new beach wear. Ski classics. Golden Gloves. Zoom racing.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 40—Leathernecks sail for Mediterranean. Friendship Food arrives in Italy. Michael of Rumania reaches exile in Switzerland. Congress hears President Truman.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 107—President Truman's message on the "State of the Union." Marines sail to join warships in Mediterranean. Ski meet. Football. Golden Gloves.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 42—UN Commission at Greek front. Japs get peek at Royal palace. Hair fashions. Aftermath of New Year's Eve. Michael in exile. Australia honors U. S. war dead. Ski meet. Golden Gloves. Commemoration of Benjamin Franklin.

Rules Against Ascap In Washington Case

SEATTLE, Jan. 11.—Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has failed to comply with a state law requiring that it file a list of its copyrighted works and data on each music title before being allowed to do business in Washington.

In so doing, the high court reversed a lower court decision granting a declaratory judgment to the effect that Ascap had complied with the law. Ascap asserted that compliance entitled it to collect fees for public performance of its musical compositions by theatres, radio stations, restaurants and other groups.

The case had been appealed from a previous lower court ruling by the Independent Theatre Owners of Washington, Northern Idaho and Alaska and the State Restaurant Association.

FCC Gets 11 Bids For Video Stations

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Eleven applications for new commercial television stations were announced here by the Federal Communications Commission.

Applicants are: Scripps-Howard Radio, Inc., Cincinnati; Stromberg Carlson Co., Rochester; Clark Associates, Binghamton, N. Y.; WOW, Inc., Omaha; Donroy Broadcasting Co., San Diego; Vindicator Publishing Co., Youngstown, O.; Easton Publishing Co., Easton, Pa.; Philco Television Broadcasting Co., Easton; Brush-Moore Newspapers, Canton, O.; Toledo Blade Co., Toledo; WWSW, Pittsburgh.

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"'T-Men,' the new **Thrilluloid**!"
—Walter Winchell

"The Pick of the Pictures. **Best** Picture of Week!"
—Jimmy Fidler's Coast-to-Coast Broadcast

"Exploitation natural **should click heavily** with audiences!" *—Daily Variety*

"Red-blooded, hard-boiled drama can be expected to **deliver handsome returns**!"
—Boxoffice

"**Ranks with best**, not excepting 'House on 92nd St.!'"
—M. P. Daily

"Unlimited possibilities for top exploitation... **headed for top grosses** everywhere!"
—Showmen's Trade Review

"**Box-office natural**, equal if not superior to 'House on 92nd St.', 'Brute Force', and 'The Killers!'"
—Film Bulletin

"Dynamic, smashing entertainment...**a winner**!"
—Hollywood Reporter

"One of **most interesting** pictures of the kind I have ever seen!"
—Louella Parsons

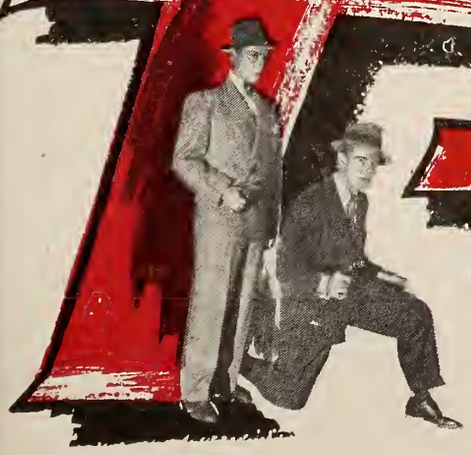
"What 'House on 92nd St.' did for the FBI, 'T-Men' does for the Treasury agents!"
—Variety

"Has what it takes to **pull customers** off streets!"
—Independent

"**Solid box-office click**... not a dull foot of film!"
—Film Daily

EDWARD SMALL
presents

T-MEN



starring DENNIS O'KEEFE with MARY MEADE · ALFRED RYDER · WALLY FORD
JUNE LOCKHART · CHARLES McGRAW · Produced by AUBREY SCHENCK · Directed by ANTHONY MANN
Written by John C. Higgins · Suggested by a Story by Virginia Kellogg · An Eagle Lion Films Release

Contempt Trials

(*Continued from page* 1)

writer Dalton Trumbo. The last trial is scheduled on March 24 for Lester Cole.

Chairman J. Parnell Thomas of the House Un-American Activities Committee, which recommended that the 10 be charged with contempt after they avoided questions on their political affiliations at the committee's October hearings, has indicated that the "second phase" of the committee's hearings on Hollywood would not be held until the court had decided at least the first case.

At Friday's arraignment, Robert Kenny, attorney for the defendants, was granted 10 days in which to file a motion to inspect the minutes of the Grand Jury which indicted the 10, and 15 days for filing a motion to dismiss the charges on the basis of the legality of the Grand Jury proceedings. Attorneys for the Government have five additional days in which to answer the motions.

Permit Two to Go Abroad

Kenny received permission from Federal Judge Richmond B. Keech for two of the defendants, Adrian Scott and Edward Dmytryk, to travel to England and return before their trials "for business purposes."

It is expected that Thomas and chief committee investigator Robert E. Stripling, will appear as witnesses at the trials.

Each of the defendants posted a $1,000 bond.

Present schedule calls for continuous running of the trials, with no overlapping. Should some take longer than the time allotted, attorneys said, the schedule will be reshuffled. Federal Attorneys George Fay and William Hitz, who appeared at the arraignment, are expected to represent the Government at the trials.

Trial Dates' Sequence

Trial dates following Lawson's and Trumbo's are: Feb. 23, Albert Maltz; Feb. 25, Alvah Bessie; March 8, Samuel Ornitz; March 10, Herbert Biberman; March 15, Edward Dmytryk; March 17, Adrian Scott; March 22, Ring Lardner, Jr., and March 24, Lester Cole.

Adrian Scott Institutes $1,314,000 Suit Against RKO

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—Producer Adrian Scott has instituted a $1,314,000 suit against RKO Radio charging breach of contract in an action similar to those instituted by Lester Cole, Ring Lardner, Jr. and Edward Dmytryk. The suits arose from dismissals over their refusal to cooperate with the House Un-American Activities Committee, their citation for contempt of Congress and the industry's policy on employment of persons who are subversives or do harm to the industry.

Scott's suit, alleging breach of a contract signed Feb. 10, 1947 and terminated Nov. 28, also seeks $500,000 "for loss of outlet for artistic and intellectual gratification," and $250,000 for "humilitation and anguish."

The earlier actions by Cole, Lardner and Dmytryk were taken against M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and RKO, respectively.

Jersey Theatre Burns

RED BANK, N. J., Jan. 11.—This town's most spectacular fire in a decade demolished the old Empire Theatre Building. The loss was estimated unofficially at $100,000.

Reviews

"An Ideal Husband"

(20th Century-Fox)

AS to be expected in a film based on an Oscar Wilde play, there is in "An Ideal Husband" a ceaseless flow of highbrow chatter and witticisms, both reverent and irreverent. Alexander Korda has lavished every care to make his Technicolor production gay and refreshing for those who prefer subtlety and sophistication in their cinema fare. A London Film production, starring Paulette Goddard and including Michael Wilding and Diana Wynward, it unfolds with characteristic British leisureliness. This quality, added to the English accents, may have a limiting effect on the wide appeal so delightful a play deserves.

Miss Goddard is an elegant lady, but it is a man's world which she is competing in here, and her weapons usually are threat and trickery. As the scene opens in London of 1895, she is poised to sink her well-manicured claws into a Parliament member. This hapless individual, in his youth had committed a political indiscretion and Miss Goddard, knowing of it, sets out to coerce him into the support of some fraudulent canal scheme. Amid settings of decorous charm, the drama builds up in a believable dilemma for poor Sir Robert Chiltern, played by Hugh Williams. It seems all rather sad for him, until it is discovered that Miss Goddard has a past in which she not only collected husbands, but also some stolen jewelry. And this proves the Achilles' heel of her little scheme. A satirical undertone runs through the proceedings from the opening scene to the very end in which the unabashable Miss Goddard ventures off on a new intrigue.

There is a certain commanding dignity to Miss Wynward as Lady Chiltern and Sir Aubrey Smith is gruff and lovable as an elder statesman. The sideline romance between Wilding and Glynis Johns provides some of the most clever and joyous moments of the picture. Korda also directed, from Lajos Biro's screenplay which shines with style and charm. As a final observation for the ladies (and men, too!) one must add the word opulent to describe the gowns. Hugh Stewart and Phillip Brandon were associate producers.

Running time, 96 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"Sleep, My Love"

(Triangle-United Artists)

IN its opening stretches, "Sleep, My Love" keeps its plot under effective wraps and, while the audience knows Claudette Colbert is not imagining things, the reason is well-cloaked and well-sustained. Then the plot takes a turn into the open dramatic spaces and lets the audience in on the dirty work. From there out, it is a case of how she will escape husband Don Ameche's dastardly plot and complete her newly-found romance with Robert Cummings. She does, and the guilty are punished in an interesting and well-done melodrama that ought to render a thoroughly satisfactory account of itself.

The goings-on find Miss Colbert waking up screaming on the night express to Boston, unaware of how she got there. When she returns home to New York, Ameche is all sympathy to the tune of introducing a psychiatrist with legitimate intentions. By a switch, co-conspirator George Coulouris enters as the doctor, scares Miss C. well nigh to desperation and disappears. This gives Ameche further reason to suggest that his wife is not too reliable in the upstairs department.

Cummings enters by way of the Boston episode and, at once, is respectfully attracted to Miss Colbert which tends to emphasize the excellence of his judgment. In due time, he also becomes suspicious, sets himself as a one-man detective bureau and eventually reaches the trail's end. Sultry, attractive, adventuress Hazel Brooks is discovered to be the malevolent force behind the scene. Ameche has fallen for her and is prepared to eliminate Miss Colbert by hypnotic suggestion induced through regular applications of drugs in her night-end chocolate. When Coulouris indicates he intends remaining in the situation post-Colbert, Ameche hits on the idea of inducing her to kill him. However, Ameche finds it requires him to pull the trigger of the gun she holds. Coulouris is injured and, in turn, kills Ameche after spilling the works. In a running blaze of gunfire, Coulouris evades Cummings but meets death in a plunge through a skylight.

Performances are good. So are star values, with stress on Miss Colbert who was voted one of the "Money-Making Stars" of 1947 by exhibitors in the *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* poll.

The attraction is based on a novel by Leo C. Rosten who wrote the screenplay together with St. Clair McKelway. Charles Buddy Rogers and Ralph Cohn co-produced for Mary Pickford with Harold Greene as associate producer. Douglas Sirk directed and did a showmanly job.

Running time, 97 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, Jan., 1948.

RED KANN

Set Dominion Talks

(*Continued from page* 1)

border for films, Howe asking that a portion of theatre revenue ordinarily used to pay for Hollywood films be retained in Canada.

Fitzgibbons will make the trip to Ottawa with Mary Pickford who will make a personal appearance at the Elgin Theatre there in connection with a UNESCO drive in behalf of European children.

Bermuda Bans 'Outlaw'

HAMILTON, Bermuda, Jan. 11.—Mayor B. G. Butterfield has banned until further notice showing of the film "The Outlaw" in this city after complaints and a private showing to Councilors of the city. The film previously was sent to Bermuda in Dec., 1946, but after objections to it from several groups, including a committee of the Board of Education of Bermuda, theatres declined to show it.

BFPA Head

(*Continued from page* 1)

tude of the British government and hopes that the American industry will give the proposal serious consideration.

Explained as a clarification of what French regarded as Motion Picture Association president Eric A. Johnston's "misleading" assertion that the British government "summarily rejected in principle any alternative to the tax," the declaration was released following a press conference Feeney with French in which he declared that interviews with leading American industry executives in New York convinced him that Americans, including Johnston, had failed completely to understand the crux of Britain's problem—namely, that Britain cannot afford more than 5,000,000 pounds ($20,000,000) for film hire. American leaders sincerely believe the government's action is due to prejudice against Hollywood films, he added.

There is no hope for ending the deadlock until American leaders are prepared to negotiate on the basis that this country cannot afford $17,000,000, and that they must be content with less, he said. These leaders, he continued, think it is reasonable for Britain to continue to import all of America's films and incur a liability equal to that of the past. French epitomized the reaction in America by saying that intelligent film men appreciated the fact that Britain was compelled to cut other luxuries but they said "you can't do this to films."

He added that British leaders should understand that a thunderbolt fell when the American box-office recession started.

Films in Britain

(*Continued from page* 1)

appearance and will increase in number from now on.

The possibility of an early settlement of the British tax problem was discounted late last week by Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association president.

However, Johnston said the American industry is prepared to negotiate at any time if British government officials evidence a disposition to discuss the several alternatives to the confiscatory tax which the American industry has advanced.

United Artists reportedly has eight unreleased features left in England, more than any other major U.S. company. It is reported that Loew's has no unreleased product remaining there and that the six other majors have from one to four pictures apiece. Some major company product, like that of several independent distributors, is regarded as less suitable for first-run bookings than available reissues.

Scophony Brief

(*Continued from page* 1)

panies—Paramount and General Precision Equipment Corp.—for the purpose of doing business in the district. The master agreement also involved Scophony's "availing itself of the privileges and benefits of the patent, contract and corporation laws" of New York and the U. S., it was said.

In conclusion, the brief pointed out that alien corporations in the United States not only have the right to sue United States citizens but can also sue domestic businesses to recover treble damages caused by violations of the anti-trust laws.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 8 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1948 TEN CENTS

Predict Same High Level of Tax Revenue

Budget Bureau Estimates $380-Millions in '48-49

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—President Truman today asked Congress for a 40 per cent increase in funds to enforce the Federal anti-trust laws, and at the same time he disclosed that in estimates of income for the coming fiscal year, the Budget Bureau predicted that receipts from admission taxes, excluding cabaret and roof garden taxes, would amount to $380,000,000.

This is the same high estimate it makes for the current fiscal year, and compares with actual collections of $392,800,000 in the year ending June 30, 1947. This would indicate that a sharp

(*Continued on page 7*)

Fitzgibbons Group Begins Ottawa Meet

OTTAWA, Jan. 12.—A deputation of five Canadian theatremen, headed by J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., gathered here today to seek discontinuance of the Dominion's war tax of 20 per cent on theatre grosses and to discuss plans for modified arrangements on proposed film import re-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Para. Buys 7,800 Additional Shares

With the purchase of 7,800 additional shares of its common stock on the open market last month, Paramount wound up the year with 411,433 shares in its treasury, the New York Stock Exchange disclosed here yesterday.

Since November 1946, when the stock-buying program was announced by Paramount president Barney Balaban, the company purchased a total of 603,100 shares. However, during 1947, 135,000 shares were used to purchase Liberty Films, and another 56,667 were used in exchange for the acquisition of Rainbow Productions.

10,393 Film Theatres In 20 U.S. Areas

There are 1,677 more non-circuit theatres than circuit houses in the 20 domestic exchange areas surveyed and statistically summarized individually by the Motion Picture Association to date. A circuit is defined by the MPA as "four or more" theatres operated by the same management.

Of the 10,393 theatres in the 20 areas, 6,035 are non-circuit and 4,358 are circuit theatres, according to the 20 MPA territorial directories issued since Oct. 1. Some 433 of the total number are closed, MPA reports.

Additionally, there are 124 drive-in theatres in the 20 territories.

Total seating capacity of the 10,393 theatres in the 5,516 towns in the 20 tabulated areas is 6,052,846. Average per theatre seating is put at 582.

The 20 territorial directories issued thus far by the MPA provide full field statistical industry break-downs on the following areas: Buffalo, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Des Moines, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Haven, New Orleans, Oklahoma City,

(*Continued on page 7*)

Canada Lifts Curb On 35mm. Machines

OTTAWA, Jan. 12. — Notification came to the film industry today that the Canadian government has lifted the ban on the importation of 35mm. projectors, while continuing to exclude 16mm. projection machines. This move applies to such imports from all countries, it was stated, but there is the intimation that, effective Feb. 1, the importation of 35mm. projectors will be placed in the category of articles for which permit licenses are required, thus providing a system of government control.

Young Becomes Sole Owner of Du-Art

With the purchase of the entire interest of Jack Goetz and Arthur Gottlieb, Al Young, one of the founders and partner in Du-Art Film Laboratories, here, has become sole owner of the company. At the same time, it was disclosed, Young has purchased a substantial interest in the building where the company is located with a view to early expansion of facilities.

PARAMOUNT SUES BRANDT CIRCUIT

Gov't Will Serve Briefs This Week

Proofs of briefs in the industry's appeal from the statutory court's decision in the Government's anti-trust suit against major companies are scheduled to be served on all defendants except Columbia and United Artists this week. Final briefs already have been served on Columbia and United Artists.

Argument on the appeal will open before the U. S. Supreme Court on Feb. 9.

N. Y. 1st-Run Grosses Firm

New York's first-run downtown theatres, offering holdovers for the most part, are enjoying good, but by no means exceptional business in several days of considerably improved weather. "The Paradine Case," one of two new pictures which made their debut here last week, got off to an auspicious start at Radio City Music Hall, ringing $86,000 from Thursday through Sunday, and a gratifying $138,000 is envisioned for the week. Fifth and final week of "Good News," plus the Music Hall's Christmas stage show brought $122,000.

The other newcomer, "Women in the Night," at the Gotham, is heading for a satisfactory $9,000 in its first week. It replaced "Febulous Texan," which fell short of expectations in its second and final week with a weak $6,700.

Two more new pictures will bow in this week: "An Ideal Husband" will

(*Continued on page 7*)

22 Chairmen Named For 'Brotherhood'

J. Robert Rubin, national chairman of the amusements division, and Spyros P. Skouras, national chairman of the film division, yesterday named 22 committees for American Brotherhood Week, Feb. 22-29, to be sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. President Harry S. Tru-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Company Seeks $563,265 In Percentage Action; 162 Others Are Named

Paramount yesterday instituted a $563,265 fraud action in N. Y. Supreme court against Brandt Theatres and 162 other exhibitors and officers of exhibitor corporations in the Brandt Circuit in New York.

The complaint consists of 33 separate causes of action. It charges the defendants with having made false box office returns on percentage pictures and having offered fraudulent statements during the period beginning Jan. 6, 1942, and continuing up to the present.

The action, being prosecuted by Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim, attorneys for Paramount, alleges that the "defendants Harry Brandt, Bernard B. Brandt, Louis Brandt and William Brandt, doing business under the name of Brandt Theatres, in collaboration with the other defendants" allegedly conspired "to defraud the plaintiff by making, or causing to be made, . . . false and inaccurate statements of the gross admission receipts" from percentage pictures.

The complaint also alleges that in the case of license agreements containing "split figure arrangements" which provide for the sharing of receipts in excess of the exhibitors' operating expenses, "false and inaccu-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Charges 'Libelous, Baseless': Brandt

Harry Brandt of Brandt Theatres, commenting on the $563,265 suit instituted by Paramount yesterday alleging fraudulent reporting on percentage pictures, said:

"This type of action is typical of the actions instituted all over the country against independent exhibitors in an effort to impose the pressure of the monopoly upon the independent. The allegations of the complaint are libelous, baseless and wholly without merit. Appropriate action to redress these charges will be taken in due course.

"Typical of the falsehood, inaccuracy and absurdity of the allegations of the complaint is the inclusion, for instance, of theatres neither owned nor

(*Continued on page 6*)

High Court Hears Scophony Motions

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—In an hour-long argument today the Department of Justice told the U. S. Supreme Court that if it did not get the relief it sought against Scophony, Ltd., in New York District Court, it could not get relief anywhere.

Sigmund Timberg, Justice Department attorney, declared that Scophony's agreement with Television Productions, Inc., and General Precision Equipment Corp., to form a new domestic comporation, and the British company's control of the new corporation constituted doing business in New York. Therefore, he argued, Scophony is technically "found" within a Federal judicial district and should be subject to an anti-trust suit.

Scophony Side Today

Attorneys for Scophony will argue the company's case tomorrow. However, in a brief filed today, Scophony declared that the Government never made valid service of process on Scophony because the British company was not in business in this country when service was attempted. A 1942 master agreement, the brief stated, provided for exchange of technical and patent data in the television field, but did not call on the British company to perform any action within the United States.

On the dates when service of process was attempted, Scophony, Ltd., did not have any office or agency here, own any property, or have any employes, employ any agent or make any sales, the brief said.

'Trading' Basis of U. S. Case

Under questioning by Justice Frankfurter, Timberg said that the Government did not contend it had made valid service of process on Scophony directors Levey and Elcock, because they were residing in New York at the time the process was served, but rather because they were carrying on Scophony, Ltd., business.

The Government said that the master agreement was the main basis for its anti-trust proceeding and that the suit could not be ended satisfactorily unless the agreement is terminated and the court orders Scophony, Ltd., to give up its interest in Scophony Corp. of America, which, the Government claimed, is a corporate instrumentality and not a subsidiary.

Eyssell Honors Valli

Valli, Italian star featured in David O. Selznick's "The Paradine Case," which is currently showing at Radio City Music Hall here, will be honor guest at a trade press reception to be given by G. S. Eyssell, Music Hall's president and managing director, on Thursday afternoon in the theatre's studio apartment.

Named 'Dimes' Chairman

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 12.—Sam J. Switow, of the Switow Amusement Co., has been named chairman of an advisory committee for a March of Dimes benefit show to be given here Jan. 25 at the Jefferson County Armory.

Personal Mention

ROBERT S. BENJAMIN, president of the J. Arthur Rank Organization here, returned to New York yesterday from Coast conferences with Universal-International executives.

•

CHARLES REAGAN, Paramount distribution chief, and HUGH OWEN, Eastern and Southern division sales manager, left here yesterday on a tour of Southern exchanges.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, is in Washington today in connection with the Freedom Train; he is due back here tomorrow.

•

ANN BONTEMPO, publicist for Loew's Newark and Jersey City theatres, has returned to her post after being hospitalized.

•

GEORGE D. BURROWS, Monogram-Allied Artists vice-president and treasurer, has returned to Hollywood from New York.

•

CHARLES ALICOATE, *Film Daily* executive, underwent minor surgery yesterday at Post-Graduate Hospital here.

•

JULES WEILL, Masterpiece Prod. president, will leave here today for a tour of company offices.

•

SAM SEIDELMAN, Eagle-Lion foreign sales manager, is en route to Rio de Janeiro from Montevideo.

•

GEORGE A. HICKEY, M-G-M Western sales manager, will be in Portland, Ore., Thursday from Seattle.

•

GODFREY WINN, British columnist and screenwriter, has arrived in the United States from England.

•

ROBERT O'BRIEN of Loew's advertising department has resigned to enter another field.

•

NORMAN NADEL, motion picture editor of the Columbus (O.) *Citizen,* is in town for a visit.

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew Theatres executive, is confined to his home with a cold.

•

STANLEY KANE, executive director of North Central Allied, Minneapolis, has been reelected town counsel of Golden Valley, suburb of Minneapolis.

•

FILIPPO DEL GIUDICE, British producer, accompanied by his assistant, ALAN JARVIS, flew to the Coast yesterday from New York.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, head of M-G-M exchange operations, left here yesterday for a tour of the company's Western exchanges.

•

LOUIS and JOSEPH ANSELL and WILLIAM ROLAND, producers, have arrived here from the Coast to confer with attorney WILLIAM B. JAFFE.

•

CLARENCE BROWN, M-G-M producer-director, will return to the Coast tomorrow from New York following a tour of Europe.

•

HERMAN RIPPS, M-G-M Eastern assistant sales manager, has arrived here from Albany, N. Y., to spend a month at the home office.

•

MILTON LIVINGSTON, Universal-International trade press contact, is confined to his home here with a cold.

•

RUDY BERGER, Southern sales manager for M-G-M, is in New Orleans from Atlanta.

•

IRVING BERLIN has been presented with the Cross of Knighthood of the French Legion of Honor.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic distribution vice-president, has returned to New York from the South and Coast.

•

MERVYN LEROY, M-G-M director, is in town from the Coast.

•

LEWIS MILESTONE, director, is en route to Hollywood from New York.

Rank May Visit U. S. In March, Not Before

LONDON, Jan. 12.—J. Arthur Rank said today he may make a trip to the United States in March, at the earliest, but added his plans are not definite as of now. His visit will have no connection with the film tax problem although naturally he would be prepared to discuss possible solutions if none have been found by then and if the subject is broached to him.

Walker Film Completed

"Mr. New York," depicting the highlights of the late Mayor James J. Walker's career, has been made at the Fox Movietone studio here. The film, produced for the James J. Walker Memorial, will have its premiere at a memorial dinner at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria tomorrow night.

Petrillo Hearings To Resume Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—All sections of the television, radio and recording industries will be able to be heard at the hearing on James C. Petrillo's activities in the American Federation of Musicians when the House Labor Committee resumes hearings here tomorrow.

Rep. Kearns said that the hearings would probably last two weeks or more, and would go into "all restrictive practices" employed by the AFM. Witnesses from television, standard broadcasting, FM groups and recording and transcription companies are expected to testify, he stated. Petrillo will probably take the stand Monday, Jan. 19, Kearns said.

Hearings will be before the full labor Committee, and not the Kearns sub-committee.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK - Ann TODD - Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN - Ethel BARRYMORE and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

BOB HOPE
SIGNE HASSO
WM. BENDIX
in "WHERE THERE'S LIFE" A Paramount Picture
in Person STAN KENTON And His Orchestra JUNE CHRISTY Exra VIC DAMONE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
JOHN WAYNE · LARAINE DAY in
TYCOON
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

IT'S GOT THAT ACADEMY AWARD LOOK!
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT · LORETTA YOUNG · DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

The THEATRE GUILD presents the RKO RADIO PICTURE
"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA"
TWICE DAILY 2:30 and 8:30 PM
3 PERFORMANCES SUNDAY at 2:00, 5:15 and 8:30 PM
RESERVED SEATS ONLY
GOLDEN THEATRE 45th St. W. of B'way

WALT DISNEY'S
Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

CAPTAIN from CASTILE
TECHNICOLOR
TYRONE POWER
20 CENTURY-FOX
Doors Open 8:30 A.M.
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

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Selznick to Make Films in Europe

David O. Selznick is augmenting his Hollywood film production and will produce in Europe starting in April, it was announced here yesterday by the Selznick Releasing Organization.

"We will make pictures in the English language abroad," Selznick said, "using the creative and production skills of the European and American film industries in the producing fields in all departments."

First Selznick-International European Productions will be Ibsen's "A Doll's House," going into production on April 15, with Dorothy McGuire. Studio work will be in Sweden and locations in Norway. Argyle Nelson, Selznick production manager, will leave immediately for Sweden as general manager of the enterprise. The film will be released internationally by SRO.

Mass Resignations Threaten on Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—Publication of salary raises to studio executives brought threats of mass resignations of stenographers and secretaries in local film exchanges, slated for next week. Already, exchanges have lost some key employes.

Dissatisfaction over the present low wage scale has provoked the situation. Contention is that a $50-a-week base salary should be established. Similar reactions are being voiced in circuit offices. Nine employes left a major chain this week. Firing some weeks ago of several film salesmen, among them men who had been with their company 15 or 20 years, also contributed to the present unrest on Film Row.

Studio Employment And Wages Drop

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 12.—Employment in studios during November slumped from October's 97.8 on California Labor Statistics Bureau's index to 86. November, 1946 figure was 104. All indexes are based on 1940 as 100. Average weekly earnings slipped from October's $105.33 to $104.74, but still were substantially above the $96.05 of one year ago.

Seligman in Business

Paula Seligman, formerly with Paramount's New York story department and head of Republic's Eastern story idea division, is now doing publicity, advertising and public relations work here on her own.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Manager experienced in theatre operations, film booking, and public relations to operate Mid-West chain of Drive-in Theatres.

Write stating experience, availability and age.

Box 404
Motion Picture Daily
1270 Sixth Ave. New York 20

News Briefs . . .

W. E. GREEN, president of National Theatre Supply, has appointed Allen G. Smith manager of the company's New York branch, succeeding James Frank, Jr., resigned, and who has been manager for the past nine years. Smith is a veteran in the theatre equipment business, and prior to his new appointment was National's Chicago manager.

Roy P. Rosser, formerly in charge of National's Albany territory and since the war assistant export manager of the company, replaces Smith in Chicago.

Albany Variety Tent Gives Barney Ross a Membership

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 12.—Barney Ross, former light and welterweight champion, tonight was presented with associate membership in the Albany Variety Club following his speech at a dinner at the Ten Eyck Hotel. He also holds life membership in the Pittsburgh tent.

Paul Crain, local bank executive, in a talk paid tribute to Variety, which took over operation of the Albany Boys' Club summer camp five years ago. Variety has spent more than $40,000 rebuilding and equipping the camp site, he said.

Chief barker Harry Lamont announced that this year's "Denial Day" campaign "surpassed all previous" drives, with more than $13,000 being raised.

San Francisco Variety Club Reelects; Baltimore Installs

An election at the San Francisco Variety Club reelected Abe Blumenfeld, head of the Blumenfeld Circuit, as chief barker for a second term. Also returned to office were Jimmy O'Neal, assistant chief barker; Jack Marpole, second assistant; Rotus Harvey, property master, and J. Leslie Jacobs, dough guy.

Variety Club, Baltimore Tent No. 19, will install officers, with O. D. (Nick) Weems as chief barker, during special ceremonies and a buffet supper night.

16mm., Taxes, Ascap Before N. J. Allied Meet Today

Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey will hold a general membership meeting today at Newark Athletic Club, Newark, to weigh a report from distributors on their handling of 16mm. releases. The organization will also examine threats of municipal admission taxes in New Jersey, review the Ascap license fee situation, and conduct a product survey. Edward Lachman, president, will preside.

Stars Aid Marine Corps

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—Screen stars Robert Mitchum, Robert Alda, Ralph Bellamy and Bob Crosby flew here from Hollywood yesterday for the national Marine Corps Day celebration at Convention Hall. Some 17,000 persons attended, including such civic and military dignitaries as Gov. James Duff, Gen. Clifton B. Cates, commandant of the Marine Corps, and former Pacific Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey. Crosby was master of ceremonies.

EXHIBITORS in the Utica, N. Y. area will be told of the goals of Theatre Owners of America by temporary area chairman Harry Lamont at a meeting of the Albany TOA unit tomorrow at the Hamilton Hotel in Utica, N. Y.

Pickford Continues Tour Of Canada for UNESCO

OTTAWA, Jan. 12.—Mary Pickford left here tonight for Montreal for additional speeches and broadcasts in behalf of Canada's $20,000,000 Appeal for Children which she opened here today for the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO, and the United Nations Appeal for Children.

She will be the guest at Montreal's City Hall at a luncheon to be given by Mayor Camilien Houde and his council. Later in the day she will be entertained at a cocktail party given by Arthur Hersh, president of Consolidated Theatres of Canada.

Public to Vote on St. Paul 5% Admission Tax March 9

ST. PAUL, Jan. 12.—Following a ruling by the city attorney that the primary election in a general election within meaning of the city's charter, the city council has set the March 9 primary election for a vote on the council's recently-enacted five per cent tax on amusement admissions. The city's theatres and other affected interests recently stymied enforcement of the new tax ordinance by petition of voters.

First move of affected interests will be use of a trailer in theatres having no reference to the tax but urging eligible voters to register.

Rocky Mountain Allied Is Skeptical Over Foundation

DENVER, Jan. 12.—Skepticism over the application of the Motion Picture Foundation to independent exhibition is expressed by Allied Rocky Mountain Independent Theatres in a current bulletin.

The organization believes "the Foundation will plainly go to the cast-off employes of the distributing companies," according to the bulletin, which contends that exhibition employes usually go into other industries or become theatre operators themselves upon ending theatre employment.

ABC Radio Theatre Here To Be a Siritzky "Art" House

Siritzky International has acquired from American Broadcasting the 595-seat ABC Radio Theatre here which, prior to its being taken over by the network, two years ago, was known as The Filmart. The fourth theatre to be added to the Siritzky U. S. circuit, it will open as an "art" theatre on Jan. 28, with "Fanny," French-made film imported by Siritzky.

Schlaifer to Chicago on "Northside" Premiere Plans

Plans for next month's world premiere of "Call Northside 777" took Charles Schlaifer, 20th-Fox's advertising-publicity chief to Chicago yesterday. He was accompanied by Sid Blumenstock, the company's assistant exploitation manager.

Austrian Industry Advances Hampered

By H. ZU LOEWENSTEIN

VIENNA, Jan. 8 (By Air Mail).—Austria's industry must cooperate closely with Germany and with the U. S. to survive, according to the considered opinion of producers and theatre owners in the capital and main provincial towns.

The Austrian industry, shattered by the general breakdown of the Greater German economic system, with which it had been linked until 1945, has not yet been able to reorganize fully. Yet its achievements appear to be noteworthy. By the end of 1946, 10 pictures had been produced, while total production may reach 25 in the first half of 1948.

About 58 producers are competing for the limited studio space at three main centers. More than 100 producers are, almost literally, waiting at studio gates. Lack of materials and currency regulations are still hamper ing production. The Rosenhuegel Atelier, under the Russian film expert, Lew B. Lunin, has been generously supplied with raw film and equipment by the Soviets. The British are supplying the Sievering Atelier, Vienna, with some needed material. The French are trying to build up a French-Austrian combine in the Tyrol.

To promote American pictures, the Austro-American Society in Vienna is continuously organizing special exhibitions of popular American pictures.

Cresson Smith Will Leave RKO Radio

Cresson E. Smith, assistant to Phil Reisman, RKO Radio foreign vice-president, will leave the company as soon as he can wind up his affairs, it was learned here yesterday.

Smith began in the steel industry in Pittsburgh, then successively was an exhibitor and film salesman. He was previously with RKO and United Artists, working variously in sales departments, home offices and in Australia. In 1945 he became Western sales supervisor for Selznick-Vanguard, and in 1946 returned to RKO as division manager of Africa with headquarters in Johannesburg.

Aleman Move Benefit To Mexican Industry

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 12.—The industry expects considerable benefits to result from the action by Congress and the Senate granting President Miguel Aleman fuller facilities to legislate throughout Mexico in cinematographic matters. President Aleman told film men when he was a presidential candidate that he would do all he could for the industry.

Alfred Sack Elected

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 12.—Alfred N. Sack, general manager of Sack Amusement Enterprises, Dallas, was elected president of the Texas Association of Visual Education Dealers in session here today. Other officers are: J. R. Riley of Houston, vice-president; and Reed Morgan of Dallas, secretary-treasurer. C. A. Reagan of Austin, and John Gunstream of Dallas were elected directors. Next meeting will be in Dallas March 19-20.

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Brandts Sued

(*Continued from page* 1)

rate statements of the defendants' expenses" were furnished to the plaintiff with the result that the plaintiff was induced "to grant licenses which provided for fees which were lower than the plaintiff would have required to be paid."

The complaint charges that some of the defendants "induced checkers by bribery, deceit and other means, to sign certain of the written reports pertaining to the box office receipts of percentage pictures" and that the defendants' acts of under-reporting "were willfully, deliberately and fraudulently committed."

Charge Falsified Records

The specific charge is made that such defendants "falsified the books and records of their respective theatres." The complaint goes on to allege that the falsification charged was "effected by the following methods and devices, among others:

"By crediting as received from flat rental pictures a portion of the receipts that had in fact been derived from the exhibition of some of the percentage pictures of the plaintiff; by using duplicate ticket rolls, by using unreported ticket rolls; by selling tickets out of continuity; by re-selling tickets; maintaining separate unreported bank accounts; by switching ticket rolls between different theatres in the same circuit; submitting to the plaintiff altered or rewritten daily tally reports, and by attributing portions of the gross receipts to other sources, thus diminishing the amount of the gross receipts reported."

Allege Padded Expenses

Concerning the "split figure arrangements" based on the exhibitors' expenses, the complaint alleges some defendants padded their expenses by "paying excessive theatre rentals to realty corporations owned or controlled by the corporate defendants; claiming as operating costs certain non-existent items of expense; claiming items of expense attributable to non-operating or extraneous sources; claiming certain personal non-business expenses of officers of the defendant corporations as operating costs, and by claiming sums in excess of the actual expenses incurred."

The complaint also charges that the alleged under-reporting of receipts and exaggeration of expenses "followed a common pattern" in all "methods and devices" used.

The summons accompanying the complaint noted that defendants have 20 days from date of filing in which to answer.

Paramount Here Announces Suit

Beginning of the action was reported by Paramount yesterday in a two-page news release from the company's home office publicity department.

The complaint contends that the defendants Harry Brandt, Louis Brandt, Bernard B. Brandt and William Brandt, individually or under the name Brandt Theatres, represented some of the defendants in the operation of their theatres, including booking and buying films; reporting receipts from percentage pictures; reporting expenses in connection with split-figure arrangements; supervising books and records and negotiating for adjustments.

The complaint charges that defendants, in many instances, refused to permit Paramount's attorneys to inspect or audit books and records of defendant theatres, both as to receipts and expenses. It contends that, as a result, it has been unable to accurately estimate the actual amount of such receipts and expenses. It adds that Paramount has been put to great expense and will be forced to incur further large expense "for the purpose of discovering the true and actual amounts of the license fees that should have been paid to the plaintiff in connection with the exhibition of its pictures."

Defendants Named in Action

Following are the defendants named in the action:

Harry Brandt, Louis Brandt, Bernard B. Brandt and William Brandt, individually and/or doing business under the name Brandt Theatres, Jay Dee Theatre Corp., Constance Theatre Corp., Wells Theatre, Inc., M. F. Theatre Corp., Phillips-Sussman, Inc., Selhel, Inc., Harkray, Inc., Brandt Amusement, Inc., 1555 Broadway, Inc.

Also: Eisenbran, Inc., Alden Rochelle, Inc., Gladpearl, Inc., Central Amusement Yonkers, Inc., Harlou, Inc., Lou-Har, Inc., Audubon Amusements, Inc., Harmark, Inc., Evadne, Inc., Belle Theatre, Inc., Greenvine Theatres, Inc., Helsel, Inc., Dobar Theatre Co., Inc., Tudor Theatre Corp., Raystock Theatre Corp., Quinral, Inc.

Also: Rayrita Theatres Corp., Hal Theatres Corp., Raymark Theatres, Inc., Mangood Operating Corp., Rogel Amusement Corp., Lenflar Amusement Co., Inc., Kaydee Amusement Co., Inc., Kay Theatres Corp., Kaydale Theatre Corp., Normandie Amusement Corp., Utopia Amusement Corp., Raystan Theatres Corp., Raygota Theatre Corp., Rayhertz Amusement Corp., Raygold Amusement Corp.

Feldmans Also Named

Also: Stateray, Inc., Eaglamuco, Inc., Monamco, Inc., Monthecorp, Inc., Aljoma Amusement Corp., Electra Amusement Co., Inc., Fair Operating Corp., R. O. R. Amusement Corp., R. H. R. Amusement Corp., Tenafly Playhouse, Inc., Jaysebe Theatres, Inc., Wakefield Cinemas, Inc., Benwill Theatre Corp., Bednob, Inc., No. 14 Theatre, Inc., Bedford Theatres, Inc., Grenvil Theatre Corp., Schuyler Theatre, Inc., Embassy Vernon Corp., Mt. Vernon Theatre Corp., Yonkers-Kent Corp., Germal Operating Corp.

Also: Lawbin Theatre Co., Inc., Addie Co., Inc., Ralsut, Inc., Helgus, Inc., Carol Ann Theatres, Inc., Andear Amusement Corp., Iris Joyce, Inc., Anwell Amusement Corp., Broadyork, Inc., Bernbar, Inc., Sanglo Operating Co., Inc., Mayfair Entertainment Co., Bergenline Amusement Co., Cliffside Amusement Company, Golden Lane Theatre Corp., West New York Theatre Co., Ravenswood Realty Corp., Ridgewood Amusement Corp., Milton Feldman, Leonard Feldman, Seymour Feldman, Florence Feldman and Louis Feldman, doing business under the name Midtown Operating Co., Lednar Amusement Co., Inc., M. E. & H. Amusements, Inc., Sagamore Theatre Corp., Dean Enterprises, Inc., Cinema Theatre Corp.

Also: 48th Street Theatre Co., Inc., Colony Theatre Corp., Miriam Amusement Corp., T. C. Theatre Corp., Music Hall Theatre Corp., Juliet Theatre, Inc., Libco Theatre, Inc., Rialto Amusement Enterprises, Inc., Netcong Amusement Co., Inc., Jewel Theatre of Brooklyn, Inc., 60 West 116th St. Theatre Corp., Sanpine Operating Co., Inc., Tenlow Theatre Operating Corp., Richie Amusement Corp., Emmons Theatre Corp., Davestan Amusement Co., Inc.

Also: Museum Theatre Co., Inc., Argent Amusement Co., Inc., Weingin Amusement Corp., Vinegrad Theatre Enterprises, Inc., Joseph E. Rubinstein doing business under the name of Ampere, Ltd., Ess-Kay Theatres, Inc., Frances Amusement Corp., Lanroc Operating Corp., Raybond Theatres, Inc., Joseph Ingber, William Sussman, Harry Eistenstein, Vivian Gruber, Louis Mazze, David Weinstock, Emanuel Hertzig, Benjamin Weinstock, Alexander Weinstock, Harold J. Weinstock, Bernard Zimetbaum, Samuel Rhonheimer, Ray Rhonheimer, Edith Bolte Marshall, as Administratrix of the Goods, Chattels and Credits of John C. Bolte, Deceased, Ben Knobel, Raymond V. Wemple, Erwin I. Unger, W. J. Unger, Harold W. Freedman.

Also: Samuel H. Levine, Martin Levine, George Brandt, Rudolph Sanders, Julius Sanders, Albert Margolies, Murray Schoen, Milton Feldman, Leonard Feldman, Seymour Feldman, Abraham H. Eistenstadt, Max A. Goldbaum, Harry Doniger, Miriam Shukat, Abraham H. Shukat, R. H. Goldblatt, Samuel Friedman, Sidney Ross, Hyman Browne, Lillie Browne, Stanley Sobelson, Samuel Silver, S. Weinberg, Nathan Vinegrad, Irving Kurland, Max Friedman, Moe Goldman, Fred Faulkner, Harry Kridel and Matthew Katinsky.

Brandt Reply

(*Continued from page* 1)

booked by the Brandts, and theatres which never made any contracts with Paramount.

"The other charges will be proved to be equally false and inaccurate," Brandt said, "It is high time that some of the monopolistic industry practices which have caused the deplorable conditions affecting the independent exhibitor be given a thorough airing. I welcome this suit because it affords an opportunty to bring to the light of day the circumstances surrounding the monopolistic practices to which independent exhibitors are subjected. It will be a revelation to the public when the facts of this case are aired in court. It will show the extremes to which some of these companies are willing to go in their greed for control over the independent exhibitor, to the extent that they must rule or ruin. The exhibition industry should once and for all be free of these onerous practices. I am positive that those clear thinking industry executives who have the best interests of the future of the industry at heart will support this fight of the independent," Brandt concluded.

Swartz in Savini Deal

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 12.—Don Swartz has closed a deal under which his Independent Film Exchange will distribute R. M. Savini's Sunset Carson series of six pictures in the Milwaukee area. The initial release will be "Fighting Mustang," set for Feb. 1.

Fire Hits Ottawa House

OTTAWA, Jan. 12.—Fire that followed a furnace explosion on Friday caused damage estimated in excess of $10,000 to the Paris Theatre here. Plans are being made to rebuild.

Canadian Imports In a Sharp Drop

OTTAWA, Jan. 12.—Canadian film imports showed a surprising decline in November, dropping to $202,000 compared with $257,000 in the corresponding 1946 period, according to the External Trade Branch of the Canadian government here. However, imports were higher during the first 11 months of 1947, amounting to $2,594,000 compared with $2,282,000 in the preceding year.

In the last full peace-time year, 1938, the official report emphasizes, film imports amounted to $88,000 in November and $1,221,000 in the 11 months of that year.

Fitzgibbons Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

strictions including a suggested film producing program by Hollywood companies in Canada to ease the dollar situation.

Fitzgibbons said he might be here most of the week, thus forcing him to miss the Toronto banquet of the company's "25-Year Club" tomorrow night.

The deputation includes A. J. Mason, Springhill, Nova Scotia, representing exhibitors of the Maritime Provinces; Charles Bourassa, Montreal, for Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries; Floyd Rumfort, Forest, Ontario, representing the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, and P. W. Mahon, Regina, for the theatre owners of Western Canada.

22 Chairmen Named

(*Continued from page* 1)

man and Robert P. Patterson, former Secretary of War, are honorary chairman and national chairman, respectively.

The committees follow: David Weinstock, chairman, campaign committee; Barney Balaban, Jack Cohn, Ned E. Depinet, Ted Gamble, Jack Kirsch, Louis Nizer and Albert Warner, national associate chairmen; Sam Shain, executive assistant to national chairman, motion picture division; N. Peter Rathvon, chairman, Hollywood committee; Harry Brandt, national chairman, exhibitors' committee; Emil Friedlander and Will H. Hays, co-chairmen, special gifts; Robert Mochrie, national chairman, distributors' division; Max A. Cohen, chairman, home office committee; Benjamin Sherman, chairman, allied industries; Brock Pemberton, chairman, legitimate theatres; John Golden and Oscar Hammerstein, vice-chairmen, legitimate theatres; Silas Seadler, chairman, advertising-publicity; S. Barret McCormick and Charles Schlaifer, vice-chairmen, advertising and publicity; Roger Ferri, chairman, company publications.

Cincinnati House Blast

CINCINNATI, Jan. 12.—Damages estimated at thousands of dollars were caused by an explosion in the furnace of the Royal Theatre here. Cause was undetermined and no injuries were reported. The house is a unit of Associated Theatres.

Cross Theatre Burns

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 12.—Fire swept the Hut Theatre, at Marrero. Built several months ago and valued at $25,000, the building formerly was a naval Quonset hut. Frederick Cross owns and operates.

Short Subject

"Children's Village"

(*This Is America-RKO Radio*)

On a bend in the Hudson River above New York City lies Children's Village, where delinquent youngsters are guided toward good citizenship. Showing the workings of this progressive institution, the subject also probes the causes of delinquency and comes up with some ideas for a cure. As shown in the subject, the Village is not run as a prison, but under trained supervision, allowing its young members to run it along their own lines. An exploitation tip to exhibitors running the subject would be to contact civic groups and clubs. Running time, 19 minutes.

New York Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

replace "Daisy Kenyon" at the Roxy tomorrow, and "Secret Beyond the Door" will follow "The Exile" at the Winter Garden on Thursday. Third and final week of "Daisy" and Lanny Ross on stage is expected to bring $75,000. "The Exile" is due to mark up only $18,000 in its third and final week. Roxy's new stage show will feature songstress Ilona Massey.

Business at other theatres is expected to shape up as follows: "Where There's Life," plus Vic Damone on stage, Paramount, third week, $70,000; "Captain from Castile," Rivoli, third week, $38,000; "The Bishop's Wife," Astor, fifth week, $46,000; "Body and Soul," Globe, 10th week, $22,000; "Gentleman's Agreement," Mayfair, ninth week, $41,000; "The Senator Was Indiscreet," Criterion, third week, $28,000; "The High Wall," plus Tommy Dorsey's band on stage, Capitol, third week, $65,000; "My Wild Irish Rose," with Herb Fields' orchestra sharing the bill, Strand, third week, $41,000; "The Fugitive," Victoria, third week, $23,000; "Voice of the Turtle," Warner, third week, $16,000; "Tycoon," Palace, third week, $21,000; "I Know Where I'm Going," Sutton, 21st week, $4,000; "Nicholas Nickleby," Little Carnegie, seventh week, $5,000.

First Ga. Video Permit

ATLANTA, Jan. 12.—First television permit for Georgia to be granted by the Federal Communications Commission was received by Radio Station WGST. Managing Director James E. Bailey announces construction of a transmitter will begin immediately, with completion expected in six or eight months. Project will cost between $500,000 and $750,000.

Hooper Joins NBC

Richard Hooper, promotion manager for RCA Victor and a pioneer in television promotion, has been appointed manager of television exploitation for National Broadcasting, Noran E. Kersta, NBC director of television operations, announces.

More Video Applications

HARTFORD, Jan. 12.—The FCC has postponed television hearings in Hartford from Jan. 19 to Feb. 16. Seven applications for Hartford area television channels will come up.

Reviews

"Tenth Avenue Angel"

(*Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer*)

Hollywood, Jan. 12

DIMINUTIVE Margaret O'Brien is the mainstay of this little story about New York's Tenth Avenue and its people, with George Murphy, Angela Lansbury and Phyllis Thaxter in principal support. Production by Ralph Wheelright, direction by Roy Rowland and script by Harry Ruskin and Eleanore Griffin are all fashioned with a view toward placing the whole burden of entertainment upon Miss O'Brien's small shoulders, wherefore the picture figures to play off best in the areas where her oft-demonstrated talent is most widely appreciated.

Miss O'Brien delineates with striking skill the emotional reactions of an eight-year-old child brought abruptly face to face with the knowledge that some of the pleasant fictions told her by her elders—such as that mice turn into money, and that stamping white horses make wishes come true—are not facts. The script provides plenty to strain her belief in parental veracity, responsibility of beloved friends, and finally even in the teachings of the Bible. A romance between her aunt and an ex-convict she believes has been away on world travel breaks up. Doctor and relatives keep her from the room in which her mother is on the point of death in premature childbirth. In desperation, she goes in search of a cow to learn whether, as she has been told, cows kneel on Christmas Eve, and the one she finds—in New York's stockyards—does so. Her faith restored, she returns to her home, her mother gets well, the broken romance is repaired, and everybody is made happy. It is a pretty heavy burden to give Miss O'Brien, but she shoulders it admirably. Others in the cast just go along.

Running time, 76 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Women in the Night"

(*Southern California Pictures-Film Classics*)

SOUTHERN California Pictures, in which are associated Louis K. Ansell, St. Louis theatre man, and director William Rowland, enters the ranks of independents with a film which offers a great challenge to exhibitors with a flair for showmanship. Material from the files of the United Nations dealing with the mistreatment of women victims of Nazi and Japanese aggression has supplied the backbone for a story offering exploitation possibilities without limitation. There is ample evidence that "Women in the Night" was produced with a sharp eye to the box-office requirements of showmen.

Made of stuff that veers to the sensational and disclosing one angle of the late war not touched upon before, the Ansell-Rowland presentation may well provoke talk calculated to enhance its grosses. It is to be understood that a film compounded of such strong ingredients in an attempt to drive home its message of the loathesomeness of war could do no less than make its prime appeal to adult entertainment seekers.

The story of the heroic conduct and unparalleled courage of many of the women who fell into Axis hands and of the abuse they were compelled to endure in their resistance to the enemy has been reduced to the terms of the treatment accorded a group of girls held captive in a German officers' club in Shanghai, with the action being telescoped within the space of a day and a half.

The tragedy of these hopelessly trapped girls furnishes potent melodrama certain to foment excitement and hold interest fixed throughout. The picture's box-office chances are enhanced by the insertion of a romance involving one of the girls and her husband, a member of the Office of Strategic Services, posing as a German officer.

The hard-hitting direction of Rowland, who also did the original, carries impact, moves the story along at lightning pace, and provides furious action. Ansell commands respect for his work as producer. Robert Sinclair and Edwin V. Westrate wrote the screenplay. A cast headed by Tala Birell, William Henry, Virginia Christine, Richard Loo, Gordon Richards and Bernadine Hayes works hard to give the picture standing as box-office entertainment.

Running time, 90 minutes. Adult audience classification. Set for January release.

"The Flame"

(*Republic*)

IN "The Flame," Republic has a melodrama that should warm the cockles of the melodrama-lover's heart. While the going may seem a bit slow for some, its very deliberateness contributes to the ability of the production to hold the average patron absorbed and in a high state of tension.

John H. Auer turned out the picture with a smartness and polish that gives it that new look so characteristic today of better melodramas. Class is there, even though it is a little on the synthetic side.

A melodrama that emphasizes mood rather than action, "The Flame" relates with much effectiveness the story of a plot to victimize a wealthy man given but a few months to live. Robert Paige is the fellow whose anticipated death is awaited. Chief conspirators are John Carroll, his brother, and Vera Ralston, who are lovers. The idea is to promote Miss Ralston's marriage to Paige so that the two may later enjoy the money inherited by the girl upon Paige's death. The scheme fails when loves gives Paige a new lease on life and the gal does a sudden, if not convincing, about-face. Justice takes care of Carroll when he is forced to kill a blackmailer (Broderick Crawford) who drives him to panic. Auer is listed as director as well as associate producer. The screen play was written by Lawrence Kimble from an original by Robert T. Shannon.

Running time, 97 minutes. Adult audience classification.

Tax Revenue

(*Continued from page* 1)

drop in admissions is not expected by the Bureau.

The total budget for 1948-49 is for $39,668,000,000.

In his annual budget message, the President asked that the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission get $7,000,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, to "strengthen enforcement of the anti-trust laws and resist the growing concentration of economic power in many important industries." This compares with $5,000,000 during the current fiscal year.

An expanded anti-trust division would almost inevitably mean closer scrutiny of many phases of the film industry. Last year Congress increased the funds of the anti-trust program, although not as much as the President had asked.

The budget released today contained small appropriations for liquidating the Office of Government Reports and the Library of Congress motion picture project. Both of these were voted out of existence last session.

The Commerce Department motion picture consultant post now held by Nathan D. Golden and the comparable State Department job, soon to be vacated by George Canty, remain unchanged in the new budget, an official said.

The President asked for an increase of almost $6,000,000, to $18,500,000, in the funds for the State Department's information program. Expansion of the program's motion picture activities will be one of the first things to be done with the additional funds, according to the message.

The President again asked for authority to allocate, ration, and fix prices of scare materials, and set aside $80,000,000 for an anti-inflation program.

10,393 Theatres

(*Continued from page* 1)

Omaha, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D. C. In 1948, MPA will issue reports on the 11 remaining exchange areas to complete its analyses of the entire 31 territories.

Of the 20 surveyed areas, Minneapolis has the greatest number of theatres in operation—884; New Haven has the least, 191. However, the Minneapolis area has the greatest number of towns, a total of 664, while the New Haven area has the smallest, 88.

There were 92 closed theatres in the Cincinnati territory, the largest number for any of the tabulated areas, while New Haven had only seven closed, the smallest number.

Non-circuit theatres, as defined by the MPA, predominate in all of the territories surveyed, except Buffalo and San Francisco, which have more circuit houses.

MPA lists no drive-ins for four areas: Des Moines, Minneapolis, Omaha and Portland. The largest number of drive-ins, 36, is in the Charlotte area.

Tri-States Meet Jan. 30

MEMPHIS, Jan. 12.—Officers and board of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee will meet here at the Chisca Hotel on Jan. 30. Among those in attendance will be Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the Theatre Owners of America.

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VOL. 63. NO. 9 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1948 TEN CENTS

Local Filming To Liquidate 'Frozen' Funds

Arrangements Made in Six Countries Abroad

American film producers may liquidate dollars now blocked in at least six foreign countries by producing pictures in or sending companies on location to any of the following: Italy, France, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Australia. This was revealed here yesterday by Gerald M. Mayer, chief of the international department of the Motion Picture Association of America, in a report submitted to Eric Johnston, MPAA president.

All of these countries also would welcome an opportunity to participate financially in such American production activities within their boundaries, Johnston was informed.

Mayer expressed the belief that the American film industry may become definitely interested in such foreign

(*Continued on page 4*)

'Frozen Fund' Hearing Seen

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a report on the Mundt Bill filed today said that the problem of "frozen funds" abroad belonging to the film and communications industries might soon warrant special hearings and specific legislation in connection with the discussions of economic recovery programs.

The report said that the shortage of dollars abroad and blocked currencies "threaten the continued or expanded

(*Continued on page 4*)

Resume Talks On French Offer: Rank

LONDON, Jan. 13.—The alternate basis suggested by Sir Henry French, president of the British Film Producers Association, for approaching a settlement of the *ad valorem* tax impasse was described by J. Arthur Rank today as a suitable basis for continuance of settlement negotiations between Motion Picture Association of America's F. W. Allport and the

(*Continued on page 4*)

Goldwyn Sees Divorcement As Essential to Industry

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—Divorcement of affiliated theatres and the breaking up of other strong exhibition combinations is essential to the health of the industry, Samuel Goldwyn declared here today on the eve of his departure for a vacation in Honolulu.



Samuel Goldwyn

Expressing his views on a wide range of current industry topics, the veteran independent producer whose pictures are distributed by RKO Radio, expressed confidence in the workability of competitive bidding and scored exhibitors generally for what he regards as their unwillingness to pay fair film rentals for the encouragement of better picture production.

"Exhibitors ought to realize," Goldwyn said, "that basically they are in the real estate business and they should be satisfied with a reasonable profit on their investment.

"The exhibition end of the business has always received the lion's share

(*Continued on page 6*)

Eagle-Lion Slates 55 to 60 for '48

Eagle-Lion plans to release 55 to 60 pictures in 1948, Max Youngstein, advertising-publicity director, announced here yesterday following his return from Hollywood.

Approximately 20 "top A's" are on the program. Among them are "T-Men," "The Adventures of Casanova," "The Man from Texas," "Northwest Stampede," "The Noose Hangs High,"

(*Continued on page 7*)

Spain Considering New Import Ruling

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The Spanish government is contemplating changes in the present system for granting film import licenses, the U. S. Commerce Department discloses.

Under the present system, licenses to import films are granted only to Spanish producers, and the number of

(*Continued on page 4*)

CSA Again Applies For Intervention

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—In a brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court today, the Confederacy of Southern Associations declared that it should have been permitted to intervene in the New York District Court in the industry anti-trust suit, and at the same time asked for the elimination of the competitive bidding clause in the lower court's decree.

CSA has been granted time for oral argument before the high court in connection with its appeal to intervene in the New York case. It also is asking leave to intervene directly at the Supreme Court level.

The brief pointed out that CSA represented more than 2,000 theatres, and asked leave to intervene in the District Court on the grounds that the interests of the independent exhibitor had been "completely disregarded" in the case, even though he is bound by the decree.

The competitive bidding system prescribed by the decree will "only bring about hopeless chaos in the business of the exhibitors," the CSA told the high court. It characterized the system as one which brings about a re-

(*Continued on page 7*)

New Jersey Allied Meeting June 28-30

NEWARK, Jan. 13.—Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey will hold its 1948 convention on June 28-30 at the Hollywood Hotel, West End, N. J., Wilbur Snaper, convention chairman, said today at a membership meeting of the organization held at the Newark Athletic Club.

The New Jersey State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board views with

(*Continued on page 7*)

Kranze to Take Over As FC Sales Chief

Bernard G. Kranze, newly-appointed vice-president and general sales manager of Film Classics, will take over his new duties here on Monday.

Formerly assistant general sales manager of the J. Arthur Rank Organization division of Universal-International, Kranze enters FC in a post especially created for him. He has been vacationing in Florida.

ASCAP May Extend Rates 30 Days More

Board Meets Tomorrow; May Cut Per-Piece Rates

Prospects of another extension, probably for 30 days, of the effective date of new theatre music licensing rates appear good as the board of directors of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers prepared for a special meeting tomorrow at which it is expected the further time extension will be acted upon.

Presently, Ascap's current contracts are scheduled to expire on Feb. 1. The probable new extension would continue present music license rates in effect until March 1.

Ascap officials reportedly are preparing a new theatre licensing formula embodying lower rates than those an-

(*Continued on page 5*)

20th-Fox Sets Chicago Plan

A new method of distribution in the Chicago general releasing area for 20th Century-Fox, beginning with "Daisy Kenyon" and "Captain from Castile," and which will allow flexible clearance and call for competitive negotiation for runs, was announced yesterday by Andy W. Smith, Jr., general sales manager, and Jack Lorentz, Central division sales manager. Exhibitors in the Chicago area have been informed of the new plan by letter mailed from the company's

(*Continued on page 6*)

796 Theatres Are In Philadelphia Area

There are 796 theatres with a capacity of 674,652 in operation in the Philadelphia territory, according to the Philadelphia theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of America is releasing today.

The 21st in a series of 31 directories, the new one reveals that 268 theatres with a capacity of 271,014 are in the area's six largest cities; Philadelphia, the largest, has 199

(*Continued on page 7*)

Personal Mention

LOUIS K. ANSELL and WILLIAM ROWLAND are scheduled to leave New York for St. Louis today.

•

JAY EISENBERG, M-G-M legal-sales liaison, will be in Washington next Monday from New York for a meeting with RUDY BERGER, Southern sales manager.

•

ERWIN BECK, M-G-M head booker in Charlotte, has resigned, effective Feb. 1, to join ED HALEY'S circuit in the Carolinas.

•

ABE MILLER of RKO Radio's insurance department and MRS. MILLER are parents of a daughter, born at French Hospital here.

•

MARTIN LEVINE, general manager of Brandt Theatres, has returned to New York from a vacation in Boca Raton, Fla.

•

HENRY A. LINET, Universal-International Eastern advertising director, will lecture tonight at the American Theatre Wing screen seminar here.

•

DAVID A. LIPTON, Universal-International studio coordinator of advertising-exploitation, is in town from Hollywood.

•

N. E. SAVINI, Atlanta representative of Astor Pictures, is here for a meeting with his brother, ROBERT, head of Astor.

•

FRANK RIFFLE, Altec field manager, has returned to his post in New Orleans following a trip through his territory.

•

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew vice-president and treasurer, is due back here next Monday from the Coast.

•

ROBERT HELMS, Kay Films branch manager in New Orleans, has returned there from a trip through Florida, Alabama and Louisiana.

•

FANNY RICE has resigned from Loew's publicity department here to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

•

HELEN NORK has been appointed manager of the Hiland Theatre, Baltimore, which was recently taken over by WALTER GETTINGER.

•

PAUL HOLLISTER, RKO Radio's national publicity director, left New York yesterday for Hollywood.

•

WALTER READE, SR., theatre circuit executive, has left New York for an annual vacation in Florida.

•

E. Z. WALTERS, Altec Service comptroller, and MRS. WALTERS have returned to the Coast from New York.

•

BEN OLETSKY, recently appointed manager of the Laffmovie Theatre, Baltimore, has resigned.

News Briefs . . .

TRUSTEES of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will hold their midwinter meeting in Seattle Feb. 17-19. Included on the agenda are presentation of the PCCITO film rental formula to all distributors, the industry antitrust suit and the decision on the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers made by the PCCITO at its May convention.

Richards Challenges NCA, Rocky Mt. ITOA on MPF

Asserting that critical statements by North Central Allied and Allied Rocky Mountain Independent Theatres on the Motion Picture Foundation "are entirely unfounded in fact," E. V. Richards, Jr., MPF president, yesterday declared: "I know that the Motion Picture Foundation was launched with the highest motives and for the best interests of all of the people of our industry."

He called for all to "wait in good faith until final plans have been formulated before indulging in any premature or unwarranted criticism," and pointed out that, contrary to charges by the two exhibitor organizations, there has been no "effort to shift the burden from one phase of the industry to another."

Mitchell Becomes Treasurer Of Berkshire Enterprises

Curtis Mitchell will become associated with Berkshire Enterprises as treasurer when he leaves Paramount this week as national advertising-publicity director, he disclosed here yesterday.

Berkshire plans to give away records as an aid to theatre grosses, and is prepared to put its program into operation after tests in New England. Premium deals with theatres will involve the use of RCA-Victor records.

Mitchell will work out of the company's headquarters in Pittsfield, Mass. Associated with him are William T. Powell, president, and James C. Fletcher, board chairman.

Columbia and National Broadcasting Meetings

First 1948 meeting of Columbia Broadcasting System's affiliates advisory board will be held at CBS headquarters in New York tomorrow and Friday. Board members represent the 167 independently-owned stations affiliated with CBS.

First meeting of the new National Broadcasting stations' planning and advisory committee will be held in New York on Jan. 20-21. Niles Trammell, NBC president, will welcome the new committee, which was elected last month.

Reception for 'Rio'

"Road to Rio" will be previewed aboard the liner *S.S. Argentina* at Pier 32 this afternoon at a cocktail party to be given for the press, shippers and passengers by Moore-McCormack Lines, Inc.

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, Warner vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, will leave here for Hollywood tomorrow for conferences with Jack L. Warner on plans for "Treasure of Sierra Madre," "My Girl Tisa," "The Voice of the Turtle," "I Became a Criminal," British-made, and "April Showers."

He will be gone about two weeks.

Justin Miller Hits Petrillo For Television Interference

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Judge Justin Miller, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, told Congress today that American Federation of Musicians' head James C. Petrillo was "educating a generation of television broadcasters in how to program television without the use of musicians."

Testifying before the House Labor Committee on the opening day of its hearings on Petrillo's recording ban, Miller declared that if television is permitted to develop without musicians as a result of Petrillo's "artificial restriction" against the use of "live" music for television programs, musicians may lose potential jobs.

Name 7 Asst. Superintendents At Eastman-Kodak Park Works

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 13.—Appointment of seven assistant superintendents at Eastman Kodak has been announced here by C. K. Flint, general manager. They are: Richard L. Clark, cine processing department; James P. Culhane, film planning and record department; Wesley T. Hanson, Jr., color process development; Floyd L. Hertle, film testing department; Lewis H. McGlashan, sensitized paper; Gordon L. Waasdorp, baryta department; Lot S. Wilder, film testing.

'Land of Liberty' in Tieups With 'Freedom Train' on Coast

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The Freedom Train and "The Land of Liberty" are joining forces.

The Motion Picture Association of America reports that the University of California is sponsoring free showings of "Land of Liberty" in Los Angeles and San Francisco during the Freedom Train's visits to those cities. Prints have been made available by the MPAA. The Train will be in Los Angeles during the week of Feb. 12 and in San Francisco the week of Feb. 29.

Brownout Threatens

HARTFORD, Jan. 13.—The Governor's fuel oil advisory committee said today that Connecticut theatres and other amusement places' out-front electric signs face a brown-out if present oil conditions continue.

Olympics Film Screening

A special screening of "Kings of the Olympics" will be held at Radio City Music Hall's private studio here Friday afternoon by the United States Olympic Committee. A reception will follow.

Newsreel Parade

SECRETARY MARSHALL appearing before a Senate committee is a newsreel highlight in current releases. Other items include films of Haile Selassie, sports, fashions and an air show. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 4—S... committee hears Marshall plan. A day ... Haile Selassie. First pay telephone in Japan. Miami air show. Los Angeles open golf. Sled dog race. College ski meet. Future ski stars.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 238—Secretary Marshall warns, "Aid Europe now, or else!" De Gaulle bids for power. Films of Haile Selassie. Japanese honor-system phones. Fashions for mermaids. Ski meet. Aquatic carnival.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 41—Hockey squad sails for Olympic games. High-flying hickory aces. European aid program debated. Grillers on Konitsa front. Air show.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 108—Secretary Marshall before Senate committee. French group strikes against U. S. films. Ski champions. All-American air maneuvers.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 44—Explosives for Palestine seized. Princess Ann ends trip to Michael. Italy welcomes Friendship Food. Secretary Marshall before Senate committee. Rescued Soviet ship. All-American air show at Miami. Skiing.

Argentine Owners Oppose Stage Bills

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The U.S. Commerce Department predicts that Argentina will have a hard time getting compliance with a bill recently proposed to oblige all motion picture theatres in the country to include a stage performance in their programs in addition to films.

The bill, recently submitted to the Argentine Chamber of Deputies, provides that stage performances must be offered at least three days weekly during at least one hour a day.

The Commerce Department report, prepared by motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden, points out that there is hardly enough talent to provide stage programs for the 1,700 theatres in the country. More important, it says, the question of division of gross receipts between theatre owner and film distributor would become more complicated.

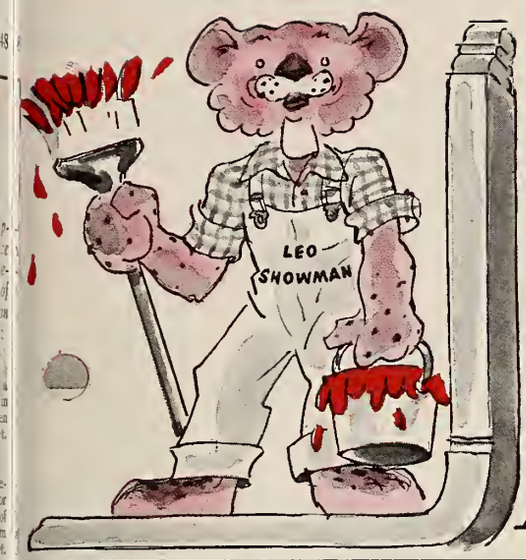
First-run theatres have often tried to introduce stage performances on the same program with films, the report says, but audiences do not take to mixed programs.

Seven More Features Get Legion Ratings

Two of seven films reviewed by the National Legion of Decency have been classified A-1; they are "Phantom Valley," Columbia, and "Tenth Avenue Angel," M-G-M.

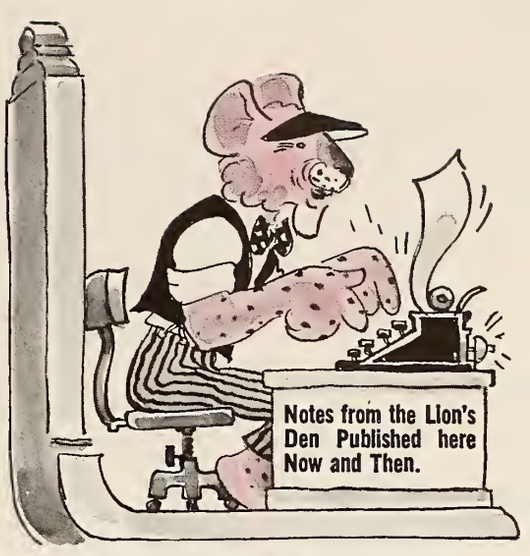
Rated A-II were: "An Ideal Husband," 20th Century-Fox; "Secret Beyond the Door," Universal-International; "Sleep My Love," United Artists, and "Woman from Tangier," Columbia. Republic's "The Flame" was placed in Class B.

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BETWEEN THE LIONS

Read It And Reap!



WEATHER FORECAST: Good Box-Office Weather For M-G-M Exhibitors

UR MOTTO FOR TODAY:

"We can only profit if we profit together"

EDITORIAL

This is Leap Year. A time for proposals. We propose that there be a re-birth of showmanship in 1948. The kind that made film business famous. Lusty, two-fisted, noisy and imaginative showmanship. Let's take off the dress suits and get back into overalls. This is a business for the masses. Together we won their attention with circus methods. Let's do it again. M-G-M has a flock of strong audience attractions ready for your audiences. And our Studio has just announced the start of an even greater program of Big Productions. The combination of fine entertainment and sock showmanship is unbeatable! Let's go!



SHORT POEM

M-G-M's Great
In '48

SHORT PARAGRAPH

M-G-M Tom & Jerry Cartoons in Technicolor (Fred Quimby, Producer) tops in Boxoffice Barometer and Showmen's Trade Review Leaders polls. Pete Smith "live-action" Specialties tops in STR poll and for 5th consecutive year tops in Fame (Quigley Magazine) vote.

M-G-M STARS HEADLINE THE NEWS AT NATION'S BOX-OFFICES!

"Good News," "Dolphin Street," "Timberlane," "High Wall," "Killer McCoy" Big Everywhere!



HELP POLICE!

It was "Good News" at Radio City Music Hall for everyone but the cops who had to handle the crowds stretching around the block!

There is rejoicing at M-G-M box-offices. Never in the long career of Leo the Lion has he started a New Year with such an array of solid audience attractions. "Good News" splashed its Technicolor joy from Radio City Music Hall across the nation in hundreds of theatres. Business was terrific with hold-overs all over. "Cass Timberlane" in its first few dates revealed its class with top receipts and "Green Dolphin Street" continues to pack them in everywhere. "Killer McCoy" a new entry is already showing champ form. And now watch "High Wall's" high grosses as it generates high-tension thrills on your screen. Happy M-G-M Year to *you!*



SPENCER TRACY



LANA TURNER



ROBERT TAYLOR



MICKEY ROONEY



AUDREY TOTTER



VAN HEFLIN



PETER LAWFORD



JUNE ALLYSON

Mono.-Pathe Deal Awaits Tax Break

Proposed deal between Monogram-Allied Artists and British Pathe for a joint U. S.-U. K. production-distribution arrangement has been tabled by the companies pending a settlement of the British *ad valorem* tax deadlock, Norton V. Ritchey, president of Monogram International, reports here.

The proposal, announced here by Monogram-AA president Steve Broidy upon his return from Great Britain last October, was designed for the mutual sponsorship of production of four pictures in the U. S. and four in England, with profits from world-wide distribution of the British-made films to be shared equally by both companies in dollars and pounds.

Local Filming

(*Continued from page* 1)

activity when it is aware of all the facts which he has been able to gather in his recent survey of the foreign market.

"Wherever close scrutiny discloses production costs on location are not too high, it would be advantageous for American film producers to consider taking crews abroad," Mayer said.

Besides economic factors, Mayer believes international understanding would be aided by such location trips or production activities in countries where studio facilities are adequate. "I have found," he added, "that the American film industry was quick to realize it had to gear post-war production to changed conditions in countries that had experienced the war. There is gratifying evidence that this is being done."

Yamins Adds Another

HARTFORD, Jan. 13.—Nathan Yamins, who operates six Fall River, Mass., theatres, has taken over the Embassy in that city.

Spain Considering

(*Continued from page* 1)

licenses depends on the number and type of films they in turn produce. The producer can use the licenses to import films under his own name, or may sell the license at whatever the market will bear. Current price for an import license is approximately 300,000 pesetas (about $30,000).

In a report prepared by motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden, the Commerce Department says that one alternative being considered is to abolish import licenses and substitute a 200,000 to 300,000 peseta tax (about $20,000 and $30,000) on imported films. Proceeds would then be used to subsidize domestic producers.

Another possibility, the report says, is to award import licenses to anyone, but give Spanish producers dubbing permits in proportion to their output.

The report points out that films from several countries get preference in Spain over U. S. films. Two British or European films may be imported on one import license, while only one U. S. film can be imported per license. Films produced in Spanish-speaking countries do not have to pay a dubbing tax.

Largest competitor of U. S. films is the Spanish-produced film, Golden reports, followed by British and Italian pictures. Criticism of American features is beginning to grow, however, with the most important criticism that they are not timely and that several years elapse between the time the film is made and the time it is shown in Spain.

New Documentary Tieup

Plans for collaboration between the National Board of Review and Cinema 16, newly formed institution for the presentation of documentary and experimental films, were announced here yesterday. The board will aid in the selection of programs to be presented by Cinema 16.

See Canadian Film Policy as Flexible

OTTAWA, Jan. 13.—In framing policies affecting films in the present American dollar crisis, it is learned in informed quarters here that Canada may not emphasize the "restrictive" angle and may make film import regulations as "flexible" as possible even in the temporary emergency period.

In addition, helpful advice from the industry itself is said to be welcome in framing such policies. Officials are reported seeking this co-operation.

Reports heard here are to the effect that if the American film industry will "play ball" in spending more in Canada and leaving more profits in this country, such team work would considerably eliminate the possibility of restrictive measures such as witnessed in other countries suffering from dollar shortages.

'Fund' Hearing

(*Continued from page* 1)

selling operations of America's mass communications industries." Declaring that the problem was too complex to include in the Mundt Bill, lest passage of the latter be delayed, the report again assured the film and other communication industries that the committee was sympathetic with their plight.

"In the present international situation," the report stated, "much can be said in favor of giving special consideration to the mass communications industries whose products and services are in great demand among foreign peoples." It declared that various aspects of the problem have not yet been fully studied, and urged both industry and Government to continue to pursue the subject.

Government Seeking to Help

Even though the frozen funds section was dropped from the Mundt Bill, industry officials were hopeful that some relief might be obtained through another section of the bill ordering the State Department to use private information agencies wherever possible in carrying out the overseas information program. They are working out schemes for the Government to take over film companies' out-of-pocket expenses in certain countries, which, they say, "will be some help, though still leaving quite a problem."

Just how far the State Department could carry this would of course depend on the appropriations Congress is willing to grant for the information program. The temper of Congress now does not hold out hope for any large appropriations.

Report Stresses Film Role

The committee report throughout treated the motion picture industry on a par with all other communications media, and in one place urged the greater use and dissemination abroad of a "wide range of quality (film) product used and produced by Americans for themselves." The report said that "certain segments of American private enterprise—for example, motion pictures—have been especially prominent abroad, and that others are only now beginning to develop a large and appropriate role."

Senate debate on the Mundt Bill is scheduled to start Friday. The Senate version is slightly different from that which passed the House at the last session.

French's Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

British government's Sir Wilfred Eady.

Sir Henry had indicated that the British government is "willing to discuss adjustments which would allow the American industry to retain revenues earned in the U.S. by British pictures in addition to amounts earned here by American pictures after the *ad valorem* duty has been paid."

Rank added that he still maintains that a solution to the tax will be reached "when the industry's leaders in both countries come face to face." He declined to say whether he plans to put his contemplated March trip to the U.S. to that advantage, but added: "I am always at the service of the interests of the industry of both countries."

'Silence' from U. S. on Proposal

Meanwhile, British Treasury officials report that no American reactions to Sir Henry's alternate have been received. But partisan comment made here holds that his declaration does not take into account America's own position, namely that the tax has assumed ruinous proportions through its syncronization with a world-wide box-office recession.

Treasury spokesmen agree unofficially that Hollywood is faced with a peculiar situation through the virtual impossibility of gearing down overnight its industrial machine, which has been operating at top level, to the infinitely lower point which the tax creates. Nevertheless, they protest that the French declaration is a sincere endeavor for the good of both sides in keeping the door of negotiations open.

Seek to 'Cushion Blow' to U. S.

British Treasury spokesmen point out that the French declaration makes no pretense that earnings of British films in America in any way approach what would be the volume of the *ad valorem* tax, but reiterated that it is the British government's desire to cushion as far as possible a blow to the American industry. Some concern has been expressed here that the full implications of French's suggestion was not conveyed to America.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Motion Picture Association of America officials here refused to comment today on Sir Henry French's declaration in the absence of MPAA president Eric A. Johnston, who is in Hollywood.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, who was today attending a Bank of America board meeting in San Francisco, was unavailable for comment on the proposal by Sir Henry French, head of the British Film Producers Association, that American producers consider the addition of American earnings of British films to the $20,000,000 in remittances from England as the basis for settlement of the *ad valorem* tax impasse.

It was recalled, however, that Johnston had no comment to offer when Sir Henry's offer was made known here yesterday.

Johnston will return to Hollywood tomorrow. On Thursday he will address the Los Angeles Town Hall meeting at the Biltmore Hotel on "The Common Cause of Freedom," with the Marshall plan as the principal topic.

Grosses Go Higher With Devonshire
JOHN MILLS—ROBERT NEWTON
"THE GREEN COCKATOO"
A Graham Greene Mystery Thriller
Your Devonshire Man in Pittsburgh Is Max Shulgold
DEVONSHIRE FILM COMPANY
185 Devonshire Street Boston, Mass.

THE BANK OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Bank of America
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION • MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Coming Events

Feb. 1-3—Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina annual meet, Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte.
Feb. 3-4—Texas Theatre Owners [illegible]nual convention, Adolphus Ho[illegible], Dallas.
Feb. 22-29—American Brotherhood Week.
April 6-8—Annual Convention of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners. St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco.
April 12-17—International Variety Clubs 1948 convention. Roney Plaza Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla.
May 7-8—Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa and Nebraska convention, Des Moines.

21 Inducted Into FP-Canadian Club

TORONTO, Jan. 13.—In the absence of president J. J. Fitzgibbons in Ottawa on matters of state affecting the film business, vice-president R. W. Bolstad and division manager Morris Stein performed the honors for the fourth birthday party tonight of Famous Players-Canadian "25 Year Club" when 21 more veteran employes were inducted into membership. These were the Ontario and Quebec employes who have been associated with the company for 25 years. Another 18 will be initiated at banquets in Winnipeg and Vancouver later this month.

Many prominent trade executives and their wives were special guests at the dinner which was held at the King Edward Hotel.

Sokolov Resigns as Para. Story Chief

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13. — Richard Sokolov, head of Paramount's story department here, has terminated his contract by amicable agreement with the studio, it was announced today. Before being named to the Paramount post in 1946, Sokolov was story editor at the Columbia studio.

2 Atlanta Video Permits

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. — Federal Communications Commission has announced the granting of construction permits for two new television stations in Atlanta. Recipients were the Atlanta Journal Co. and Atlanta Constitution Publishing Co. The Commission also announced that National Broadcasting had been granted temporary authorization to operate three experimental television relay broadcasting stations between Philadelphia and Baltimore.

New Sack Ad Chief

DALLAS, Jan. 13.—Charles D. Fair, former director of advertising-publicity for the Southwestern Medical Foundation, Dallas, has been appointed to a similar post with Sack Amusement Enterprises, producer-distributor with its home office in Dalias. Fair will direct all publicity and trade paper advertising for the Sack branches in Dallas, Atlanta, New York, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Los Angeles and Chicago.

File Counter Suit Over Percentages

In answers filed by Jesse Stern and Abe Levy, New York exhibitors, to percentage suits brought by Paramount, 20th Century-Fox and Warners, it is claimed that film contracts involved violate Federal and New York State anti-trust acts, while a counter claim against the plaintiffs and Confidential Reports, percentage checking company, alleges a conspiracy to violate the state anti-trust act by exchanging information concerning theatres.

The suits are pending in New York Supreme Court here. Monroe Stein is attorney for Stern and Levy. Louis Nizer represents the plaintiffs.

ASCAP Rates

(*Continued from page* 1)

nounced late last summer. However, the new formula has not been completed and indications are it will not be ready by Feb. 1, thus necessitating a further time extension. The new formula is being prepared following Ascap meetings with Theatre Owners of America.

Extension Through N. Y. Suit

A 30-day extension of present rates from Feb. 1 already has been granted by Ascap to Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York members who are plaintiffs in a monopoly action against the Society now pending in Federal District Court here. Ascap was required to ask a postponement of the hearing in the ITOA action scheduled for Feb. 3 and, in doing so, consented to the time extension on current license rates to the litigants.

It is also learned that Ascap, at the request of the Department of Justice, is preparing a new rate schedule for "per-piece" music licenses. Indications are that the new schedule will embody rates considerably less than those on file in the states of Washington and Florida, where state laws require that the per-piece licensing method be made available for prospective licensees.

Federal Decree Also Holds

The Federal consent decree under which Ascap operates also requires the Society to make available per-piece licenses to applicants who apply for them.

Allied States demonstrated to the Justice Department recently that the per-piece rates established by Ascap were so costly as to be of no practical value to exhibitors who might prefer the system to blanket licensing. It is believed that the Department, as a result of prodding by Allied, prevailed upon Ascap to draft the new per-piece formula, embodying more equitable rates, and which is now in work.

City Tax Passed Up

DANVILLE, Va., Jan. 13.—City Council passed up the proposed amusement tax in Danville for 1948 at a special meeting here. The tax would have levied one cent on each ten.



RIPPED FROM THE PRIVATE FILES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HERE'S THE TERRIFYING TRUTH OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN



"WOMEN IN THE NIGHT"

with
TALA BIRELL
WILLIAM HENRY
VIRGINIA CHRISTINE

Produced by LOUIS K. ANSELL
Directed by WILLIAM ROWLAND

Ready Now for
NATIONAL RELEASE
thru Film Classics, Inc.

Goldwyn

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the total profits of this industry and has never taken any of the risk involved in the production of pictures. No exhibitor has to create a new theatre each week, but Hollywood must take all of the gamble involved in creating new attractions to keep the theatres open."

"A theatre," Goldwyn observed, "is only as valuable as the cans of film that are delivered to it."

Not all of the producer's barbs were aimed at exhibition. He reserved a few for Hollywood and the industry at large.

'Revolutionary Changes' Needed

In the next 12 months, Goldwyn believes, Hollywood must make "completely revolutionary changes" in its objectives and methods. Quality must be doubled and costs cut in half, he said.

"Inefficiency must be rooted out of high places as well as all other ranks. It is a startling indictment of our industry that with employment throughout the United States at its highest peak in history, box office receipts have been going down," Goldwyn remarked. "Unless a thorough and honest housecleaning takes place, the difficulties our industry has experienced of late will fade into insignificance by comparison with those ahead.

"There is no surer road to ruin for the industry than poor pictures produced at high cost," he declared.

Stresses Planning, Efficiency

Costs can be reduced without impairing picture quality, Goldwyn believes, by careful preparation of scripts; advance planning by producers and directors to accomplish 50 per cent of the work "before a camera turns," and by the reduction of general overhead through efficient management.

"Our picture makers must realize," he said, "that the greatest spectacles are not those produced by vast sets and huge crowds, but by whatever truly touches the hearts of the audience."

Goldwyn expressed his conviction that good pictures can realize profits in the domestic market alone.

"A producer who today counts on any foreign revenue to pay off his costs is inviting disaster," he observed.

Goldwyn believes the industry is in a chaotic condition and he sees it as being too preoccupied with "a variety of expedients" to effect readjustment while giving too little attention to the making of better pictures which are essential to the solution of its problems.

'Story Can Make Stars'

He regards stars with drawing power as "important," but believes that a "fine" story needs no stars and often creates them. Asked whether he still believes that Hollywood is "dry of ideas" he suggested that the question be answered to everyone's satisfaction after a mental review of the product released in 1947.

Goldwyn said the industry lacks a long-range view of its public relations problems.

"Good public relations start with good private relations," he said. "We must put our own house in order before we can hope to win the genuine good will of the public. If we have good private relations and produce good pictures our public relations will take care of themselves."

Remarking on the progress being made by television, Goldwyn said he believes it can be beneficial to the industry by providing an incentive for making better pictures, to put better entertainment in theatres than the growing television audiences can get by remaining at home.

Returning to the subject of theatre divorcement, Goldwyn said: "No circuit, whether affiliated or not, should have the power to stifle competition and dictate terms on an 'or else' basis."

That robs the producer of incentive and results in mediocrity throughout the industry, Goldwyn said.

20th-Fox Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

office there and signed by Joe Neger, branch manager.

The plan is designed to meet local complications arising from the recent Chicago Federal Court decision in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust action.

The plan is experimental and may be changed or modified from time to time or abandoned by 20th-Fox at its discretion.

15 Major Zones in Territory

The Chicago territory and adjacent suburbs, including Gary and Hammond, Ind., exclusive of first-runs in the Loop, have been divided into 15 major key zones. All comparable theatres in each of the zones and in sub-key zones will be given opportunity to buy a run on each picture in competitive negotiation with every other theatre in the respective zone which desires to compete for a run. Thus, 15 theatres will be given an opportunity to play 20th-Fox pictures day-and-date on the same availability.

The major key zones have been divided in turn into sub-key zones in which additional runs subsequent to the first-run in the major key zones will be offered also on the basis of competitive negotiation.

The first-run in the Loop area will be granted a flexible clearance of seven to 14 days, and in some instances the seven-day clearance may be reduced to a prior run. The reason for this flexibility is to afford subsequent-run theatres a better opportunity to book.

Explain Clearance Flexibility

There may be some theatres unable to play a picture if the clearance were fixed at a definite seven or 14 days, and this flexible clearance will give them more opportunity, it was said. Also, the first-run in each of the 15 zones will be granted a clearance of seven to 14 days over the next run, and so on down the line, with seven to 14 days' clearance granted each prior run. Pictures would then be made available to the succeeding run seven to 14 days after the end of the preceding run. Here again the clearance in some instances may be reduced to merely a prior run so as to meet the booking situation.

In inaugurating the plan, however, the clearance on "Daisy Kenyon" will be 16 days and on "Captain from Castile," 15 days, in order that these may complete present runs and offer sufficient time properly to establish the new plan.

Review

"Jenny Lamour"

(Foremost Films Corp.)

FRENCH film makers have sent another fresh and unusual film in "Jenny Lamour," a portrait study of an ambitious follies girl, her jealous husband, and a resultant murder of a woman-loving scoundrel. It is adult entertainment, studded with many realistic touches. Louis Jouvet, a name that means much to French filmgoers, is starred, and he gives a brilliantly modulated performance. The picture rates high on the list of current foreign product entering the country.

Unfolding against a background of Paris music-halls, the film can most aptly be described as a murder-melodrama with musical trimmings. Its sturdy little plot has Jouvet, a foxy, nondescript police inspector, enter late on the scene, with the story soon developing into an intriguing puzzle of heightening intensity. Although it is known that the husband is innocent of what appears to be a crime of passion, circumstance builds up against him. Henri-Georges Clouzot directed adroitly, leaving the audience with a sense of participation in the eventual solution of the crime, which turns out to be quite novel.

As with most French dramas, the action takes place against a background of real-life settings, with dialogue ranging from the realistic to the risque. Suzy Delair in the title role and Bernard Blier as her husband give performances that are convincing. A Noel Meadow and David Kay presentation, several tunes go lilting through it. English titles are used.

Running time, 102 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, Jan. 25.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Anderson to Work On Building Code

Henry Anderson, manager of the insurance department of Paramount Theatres, has been named chairman of the special committee on codes and ordinances of the Theatre Owners of America, by Robert W. Coyne, TOA executive director.

Anderson has been authorized to confer with the National Board of Fire Underwriters in connection with the preparation of a building code which, among other things, will include provisions relating to theatres.

55 to 60 from E-L

(Continued from page 1)

"Prelude to Night," "Mickey," "Corkscrew Alley" and "The Spirituals." All but the last-named are finished.

J. Arthur Rank product already set will comprise "Smugglers," "Take My Life" and "October Man."

A's to be contributed by Walter Wanger include "Bastille," "Tulsa," "Lady Pirate" and "Blank Wall."

"Hollow Triumph" and "Let's Live a Little" are other top films on the program, which also is expected to include at least three more Rank films, possibly five.

Other pictures will be "Heading for Heaven," "Enchanted Valley," "Assigned to Danger," "The Cobra Strikes," "Open Secret," "Close-up" and "Linda, Be Good." All but the last will be among 23 "exploitation specials," half of which will be turned out by independent producers.

Among the B's will be a series of Eddie Dean Westerns.

Pictures in the top bracket will be budgeted at a minimum of $1,000,000. Those listed as exploitation specials will cost from $250,000 to $400,000 and the Westerns and other "B" product from $100,000 to $150,000.

Poster Operators Meet

CHICAGO, Jan. 13. — Mutual problems of the nation's independent poster exchange operators will be discussed at a meeting at the Sherman Hotel Here, Jan. 31.

New Jersey Allied

(Continued from page 1)

disfavor the exhibition of 16mm. films in the state's restaurants and taverns, Edward Lachman, Jersey Allied president, told today's meeting.

Lachman said Jersey Allied, upon learning recently that exhibition of 16mm. pictures is spreading rapidly in restaurants and taverns, to the point where theatres are facing serious competition, protested to the ABC board and was informed that the board opposes the practice. Jersey Allied members will begin at once to survey their respective areas to determine the extent of the practice and data collected will be turned over to the New Jersey ABC board.

CSA Again Applies

(Continued from page 1)

straint of trade for the benefit of those against whom relief is sought. The injunctive provisions of the decrees together with the right of the Attorney General to have access to all books and papers of the defendants will end all unlawful restraint of commerce without the competitive bidding clause, according to the CSA brief.

796 Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

theatres with a capacity of 194,189, or an average of 976 seats per house.

In the Philadelphia territory, 132 theatres are located in 126 towns with a population of 2,500 and under. They account for a total capacity of 57,585, or an average of 436 seats per theatre.

4 More File for Video

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Four applicants for new commercial television stations are reported by the Federal Communications Commission. They are Matheson Radio Co., Boston; E. Anthony and Sons, Boston; Kansas City Star Co., Kansas City; WJW, Cleveland.

Sells Film Transfer

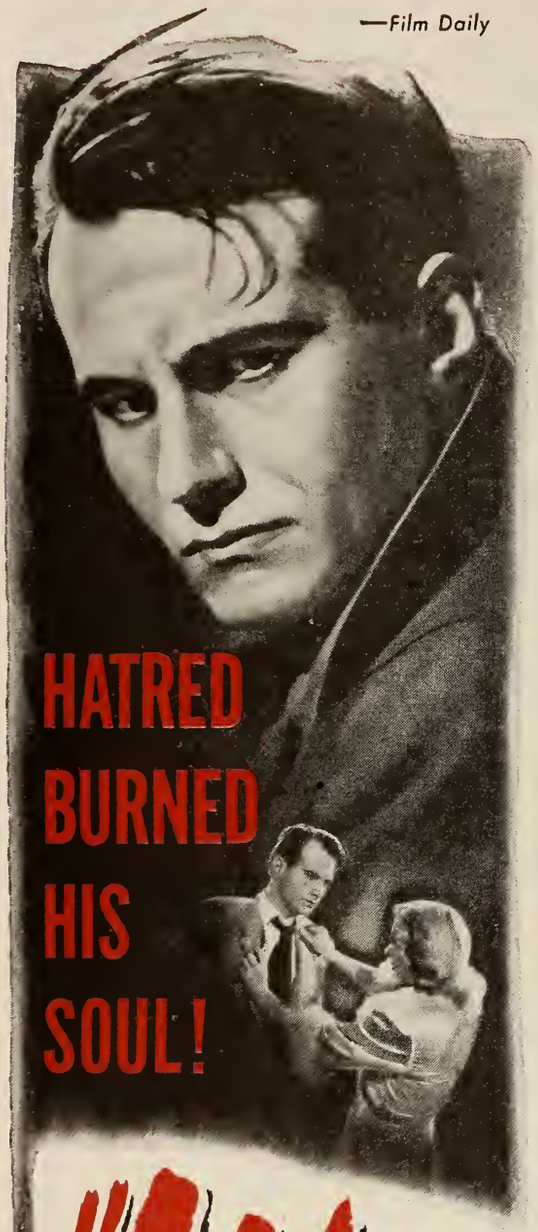
MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 13.—Charles E. McCarthy has sold his Film Transfer, Twin Cities film pickup service, to William Alexander and is retiring from business.



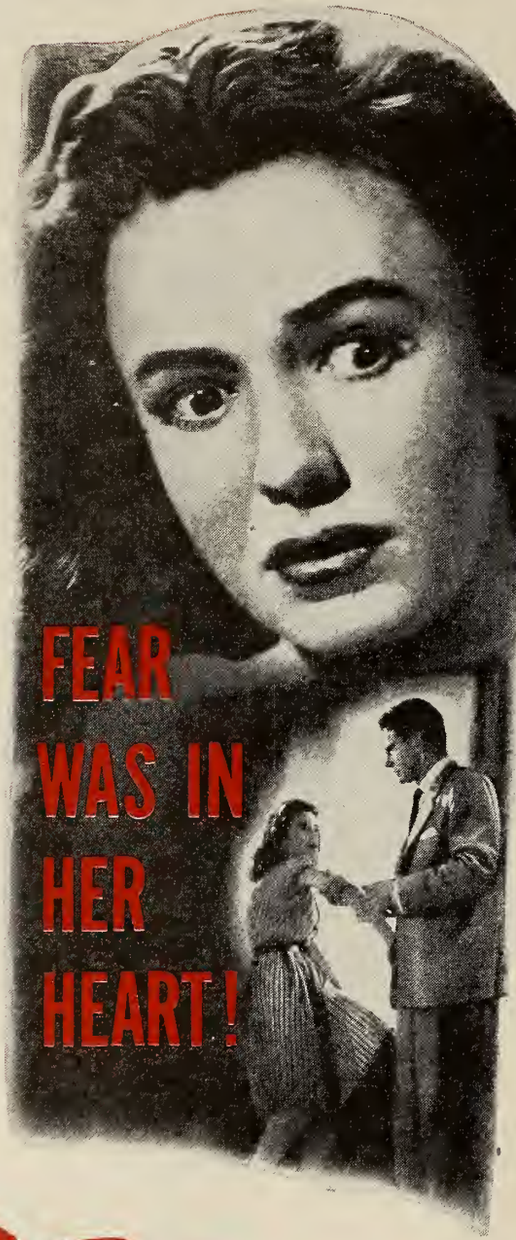
"THREE GOOD NAMES CAN BE SOLD TO ANY AUDIENCE!"
—Film Daily

"ENGROSSING TALE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MURDER!"
—Motion Picture Daily

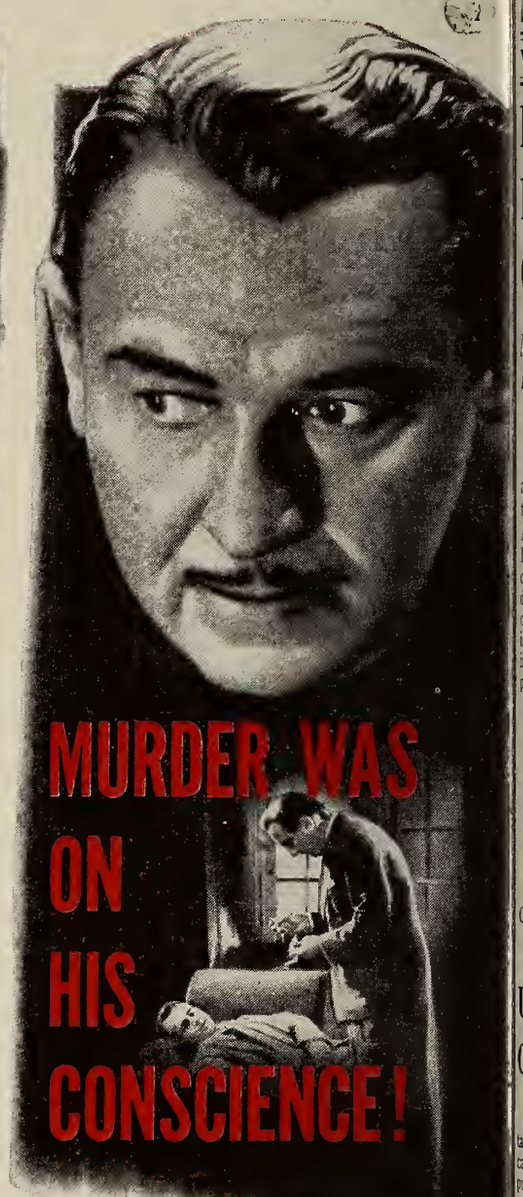
"IMAGINATIVE MURDER STORY ...LUKAS EXCELLENT!"
—Showmen's Trade Review



HATRED BURNED HIS SOUL!



FEAR WAS IN HER HEART!



MURDER WAS ON HIS CONSCIENCE!

"WHISPERING CITY"

Helmut DANTINE Mary ANDERSON Paul LUKAS IN

"WHISPERING CITY"

with MIMI D'ESTEE · JOHN PRATT · LUCIE POITRAS · JOY LAFLEUR

Directed by FEDOR OZEP · Produced by GEORGE MARTON · Executive Producer PAUL L'ANGLAIS

Original story by George Zuckerman and Michael Lennox · Screenplay by Rian James and Leonard Lee

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French's Plan Is Received Coldly in U. S.

MPAA Cites Low Earning Power of UK Films Here

By CHARLES L. FRANKE

J. Arthur Rank's suggestion that a resumption of British *ad valorem* tax settlement talks between the American film industry and the British government could possibly center around Sir Henry French's declaration stipulating retention here of British film earnings in the U. S. is being received without enthusiasm in the U. S. industry as is Sir Henry's proposal itself.

A top Motion Picture Association of America official said here yesterday that earnings of British pictures in the U. S. are so small as to make the French proposal one which is hardly a basis for resuming negotiations.

He said, too, that with Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Staf-

(*Continued on page 7*)

US-Industry Meet On Blocked Funds

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Representatives of the film and other communications industries today gave a new push to the movement for State Department aid on the frozen funds problem.

At a closed luncheon meeting at the Hotel Statler, officials of the Motion Picture Association of America, and book magazine, and newspaper industries met with State Department officials.

Chief result of the meeting, apparently, was a promise on the part of

(*Continued on page 7*)

UA Managers Open Meeting Here Today

United Artists will hold a two-day district managers meeting at the home office starting today and presided over by Gradwell L. Sears, president, and J. J. Unger, general sales manager. Among others present will be Edward M. Schnitzer, Eastern and Canadian sales manager; Maury Orr, Western

(*Continued on page 4*)

Financing Progress Reported by MPF

Motion Picture Foundation's special finance committee, following its first meeting yesterday at the Harvard Club here, reported it had made "definite progress" toward determination of fund-raising methods and financial administration of the Foundation. Hereafter the committee will meet at regular three-week intervals until a full financial program is set up for the consideration of MPF trustees, it was reported at the conclusion of the meeting by committee co-chairmen Si Fabian and Leonard Goldenson.

Yesterday's meeting was attended also by Barney Balaban, MPF treasurer; Spyros P. Skouras and Ned E. Depinet, MPF executive committee members, and Louis A. Novins, assistant to Balaban.

Finance committee includes, in ad-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Kelly Leaving U. K.; Deal Near Closing

LONDON, Jan. 14.—Arthur W. Kelly, United Artists executive vice-president, who has been here for the past six weeks on a business visit, plans to leave for New York on Saturday. Kelly is expected to conclude a deal before his departure for UA's seven remaining unreleased features which were in England in advance of the imposition of the 75 per cent *ad valorem* duty on imported films. Indications are the deal may be set with the G-B Circuit.

Trust Suit Briefs Exchanged Tomorrow

The Government and major distributors, with the exception of Columbia and United Artists, will exchange briefs tomorrow in the appeal from the statutory court's decision in the anti-trust suit. Briefs already have been exchanged between the Government and Columbia and United Artists.

The appeal is scheduled to come up for argument before the U. S. Supreme Court on Feb. 9.

Truman's Tax Bill Given to Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—The Administration's tax bill was introduced in Congress today but stands little chance of passage, it is generally believed.

In addition to the $40 per capita income tax credit called for by President Truman in his state of the union message, the bill would partially restore the excess profits tax. The measure was introduced by Representative Dingell of Michigan after he and other top Democrats met with the President. Dingell, in the special session, introduced a bill halving the admissions and other excises. Dingell

(*Continued on page 7*)

U. S. May Ask Standards for Film Exports

Smith Says Censorship Is Not Suggested, but—

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—One of the first steps to be taken by the State Department when Congress authorizes its overseas information program may be an attempt to get the motion picture industry to tighten its standards for films sent overseas.

This was indicated at a press conference today by Senator Smith, who is managing Senate action on the House-approved Mundt Bill, which authorizes the program.

Emphasizing that he and his fellow senators were not suggesting censorship and had nothing but praise for the job which the film industry has been doing abroad, Smith said that nevertheless there are some films "showing the seamy side of America" being exported, and that he thought the State Department would at an early date set up a study group to "relate the kind of picture which the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Court Gets Malco Suit Settlement

MEMPHIS, Jan. 14.—An order announcing that the $3,378,000 suit against M. A. Lightman, Paul and W. F. Zerilla and Malco Theatres and eight major film companies had been settled by agreement was filed in Federal Court here today.

It was understood the case was settled for $200,000. The suit was dismissed with prejudice, which means that it cannot be refiled at a later date.

Filed in Federal Court here under the Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts by a group of neighborhood theatres in Aug., 1946, the suit charged the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Brandt Answers in Para. Suit Due Feb.2

Answers of Harry Brandt, Bernard B. Brandt, Louis Brandt, William Brandt and 162 other defendants in the Brandt Circuit are scheduled to be filed on or before Feb. 2 in New York Supreme Court to Paramount's complaint charging them with fraud in connection with percentage

(*Continued on page 7*)

Independents Also Firm On UK Film Boycott

Independents and Motion Picture Association of America members will continue in their boycott of the British market. This is indicated here following the Jan. 9 Hollywood declaration by Eric A. Johnston, MPAA president, that the association has been given no choice by the British government except to continue withholding shipments of pictures until an alternative to the *ad valorem* tax is worked out.

Non-MPAA companies, which united with the MPAA in establishing the boycott shortly after Britain imposed the confiscatory tax, last August, will continue to stand with MPAA companies on the boycott because "it is in their best interests to do so," according to a spokesman of that group. "It would be senseless to do otherwise," it was said.

Principal non-MPAA companies in-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Seek Arnold for Indicted Writers

Hollywood, Jan. 14.—Screen Writers Guild membership last night voted down a resolution which would have bound the organization to demand reinstatement of the writers discharged for disservice to the industry following the recent Thomas committee hearings and to furnish financial backing for them until reinstated. At the same time the Guild announced it is negotiating with Thurman Arnold to represent the Guild as *amicus curiae* at the trials of the writers indicted for contempt of Congress.

Personal Mention

FRED WEHRENBERG, board chairman of Theatre Owners of America, who was due here yesterday from St. Louis, was prevented from making the trip by an attack of laryngitis.

•

PATSY RUTH BROUSSARD, daughter of MR. and MRS. G. J. BROUSSARD, owners of the T U Theatre in Jeanerette, La., and the Youngsville in Youngsville, La., will be married Easter Sunday to JOHN PATRICK ELZEY, son of MR. and MRS. JOHN F. ELZEY, head of the Delta Theatre Supply Co., New Orleans.

•

ROSALIE ROSS of RUTGERS NEILSON'S publicity contact staff at RKO Radio here, will be married to ALFRED JACOB on Jan. 24. The couple will go to Johannesburg, South Africa, in mid-February, where JACOB is in business.

•

A. M. WEINBERGER, office manager of the Warner exchange here, will lecture tonight on "Showmanship and Motion Picture Distribution" at New York University here.

•

ROBERT CASE, city manager of Walter Reade Theatres in Kingston, N. Y., has been named chairman for theatres for the Ulster County, N. Y., March of Dimes drive.

•

ED HINCHY, head of the Warner home office playdate department, will be in Boston tonight from New York and is expected back tomorrow night.

•

JOHN JOSEPH, Universal-International advertising-publicity director, is expected here from the Coast in mid-February.

•

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, Universal-International Eastern studio representative, will leave New York tomorrow for Hollywood.

•

DOYLE MAYNARD, general manager of the Don George Corp., was a New Orleans visitor last week from Shreveport, La.

•

CARLOS PLAZA, Monogram distributor in Venezuela as well as a circuit operator in that country, is visiting in New York.

•

J. J. DONOHUE, Paramount Central division sales manager, has returned to New York from a vacation in San Francisco.

•

MORT PFEFSER of American Display Corp. has returned to New York from a two-week honeymoon in Miami.

•

FRANK JONES, manager of the Strand Theatre, New Orleans, and MRS. JONES are parents of a son.

•

EDWARD JENTZ of Film Distributors Audit Co., New York, was in New Orleans last week.

•

EMERSON YORKE is in Detroit from New York on a film production television deal.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

SAM GOLDWYN is en route to Honolulu. According to his custom, that means a going-away appraisal of the state of the film. On the high seas and reasonably immune from the hail and brimstone, Goldwyn probably will be hearing from exhibitor associations on such of his conclusions as these:

1—"Exhibitors ought to realize that, basically, they are in the real estate business and they should be satisfied with a reasonable profit on their investment."

2—"The exhibition end of the business has always received the lion's share of the total profits of this industry and has never taken the risk involved in . . . production. . . . No exhibitor has to create a new theatre each week, but Hollywood must take all of the gamble. . . . A theatre is only as valuable as the cans of film that are delivered to it."

■

The many first-class showmen in the ranks of exhibition will not react sympathetically to Goldwyn's brusque statement that essentially they are real estate operators. Nor should they. For among these men, large and small, are many who have a perfect right to assert and who can prove they have contributed substantially to the continued acceptance of motion pictures by the public.

They have brought this about by high operating standards which have aided immeasurably in establishing the picture theatre as a frequent gathering place. The innumerable instances of exhibitors who have blended themselves and their houses into the fabric of the community have resulted in incalculable goodwill at the local level. If this has done nothing else, it has served to create a favored and favorable setting for the effort which Goldwyn holds so highly.

■

The exhibitor does not face the direct risk involved in production. But some of the product emanating from Hollywood clearly reveals the risk should never have been faced there, either. The fact is that in the nature of this business all three of its major branches are parties to the risks and the stakes.

Theatre real estate may be placed in serious jeopardy if its profit-making productivity declines under the impact of poor product. All pictures are not "The Best Years," not even Goldwyn's. The peaks and valleys in the quality of the product have a persistent habit of reflecting in theatre health. Exhibition is not as simple, and neither is it as routine, as Goldwyn would make it. And, as for the matter of a "reasonable profit," any discussion on that point can only eventuate into a matter of definition.

Definitions often are influenced by who is sitting where.

■

Goldwyn appears perturbed because exhibition enjoys the lion's share of the profits. But in this land of free enterprise, and unfettered as he is by the Government suit, Goldwyn is free to move in and, in fact, already has in a couple of key cities. If and when he should acquire more houses, it will be interesting to note whether future statements will find him reviewing the state of the film as a producer or as an exhibitor. Or, perhaps, a Goldwynesque combination of both.

■

On production, where this firebrand of Hollywood is on safer ground, Goldwyn appears certain costs can be reduced by 50 per cent, without impairment of quality. His method: Careful preparation of script, preproduction planning to the tune of half the final job before the camera turns, reduction of general overhead by more efficient management.

Fine, brave comment. The way to prove it, however, is to do it. Goldwyn ought to start with Goldwyn.

■ ■

Ronald Reagan, president of the Screen Actors Guild, reviewed the state of the actor at the University of California Sunday evening. Of the SAG's enrolled membership of 8,500, he stated only 600 performers are under studio contract today. The Associated Press thereafter reported his reasons for "much of the blame for the actors' economic straits." *The reasons*: Greatly increased theatre attendance but failure [whose?] to construct additional theatres with the result films are held for longer runs and there is less need for new pictures.

The facts: Theatre attendance is down, not up. Construction of new theatres, of course, is prohibited by Federal regulation. Runs are shorter, not longer. Ask the exhibitor. Ask the distributor. Ask anybody except a Hollywoodian.

Allied Board Meet Set for Feb. 16 - 18

Washington, Jan. 14.—Board of directors of Allied States will meet here Feb. 16-18 at the Hotel Statler, it was disclosed today. Annual election of Allied officers is scheduled to be conducted, but details of the agenda have not yet been announced.

Sees Better Films In Use of Economy

That better pictures will result from the industry's economy program was the belief expressed yesterday by Jack Wrather, independent producer releasing through Monogram.

"The present situation is doing pictures a lot of good," the Texas oil man said at an interview at the Monogram offices here. "It's forcing Hollywood to get its feet on the ground."

Wrather asserted that the size of a picture's budget "has very little to do with the actual quality of a film," holding that "the only difference between A's and B's is the ideas put into them." He criticized the theory that good pictures require big budgets. It's possible to make good pictures with less money, Wrather maintained, citing recent examples.

Wrather's next picture to be made for Allied Artists for Monogram release will be "Strike It Rich," a story of the East Texas oil fields, in the new three-color Cinecolor process. The film, set to go into production on May 1, is budgeted at $650,000 to $750,000. Bonita Granville (Mrs. Wrather) will have the top feminine role.

An untitled "exploitation picture" will follow "Strike It Rich." Wrather said he also hoped to do a film version of "In His Steps," the religious novel by Charles Sheldon.

UA Plans 'Biggest' Releasing Schedule

United Artists will embark on the "biggest releasing schedule in its history" during the early months of this year, with the distribution of nine films, it was announced here yesterday by Gradwell L. Sears, company president.

Three additional completed films, he said, will also be released in 1948, as will seven others, including five "Hopalong Cassidy" features, which are now being edited. Two other UA releases are before the cameras, and another is scheduled to begin shooting next week.

Jack Darrock Stricken

Jack A. Darrock, short subject production supervisor for 20th Century-Fox, here, is critically ill at Mt. Vernon Hospital, Westchester County, from a cerebral hemorrhage suffered Tuesday morning. Darrock, former reporter and news editor, was with Pathe News from 1925 to 1930 and joined Movietonews in 1930.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address: "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo J. Sullivan, Vice-President and Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Yucca-Vine Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 120 South La Salle Street, Editorial and Advertising. Urban Farley, Advertising Representative. Washington, J. A. Otten, 2525 Ontario Road, N. W.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager, Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

MY WILD IRISH ROSE



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ALL TERRIFIC!

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DENNIS MORGAN

AND A GIANT MUSICAL CAST • Color by TECHNICOLOR

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GEORGE O'BRIEN · BEN BLUE · SARA ALLGOOD

Directed by
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WB

WARNER BROS. MUSICAL!

Screen Play by Peter Milne • Based upon a Book by Rita Olcott • Musical Numbers Created and Directed by LeRoy Prinz • Musical Numbers Orchestrated and Conducted by Ray Heindorf

SAG Members Back 'Red' Disclaimers

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—With a vote of 1,307 to 157, the Screen Actors Guild membership has adopted a resolution requiring all guild officers, directors and committee members to sign individual affidavits certifying that they are not members of the Communist Party. Conducted by mail, the ballot confirms similar action taken at a membership meeting last November which lacked a quorum.

SAG members also voted in favor of a vigorous fight against the Taft-Hartley Law, for tabling a resolution seeking to link the guild with other labor groups in devising a plan for collecting royalties from reissues, to establish a committee on unemployment problems, against placing restrictions on guild members who are not U. S. citizens, against establishment of a permanent standing committee to act on problems of racial and minority groups.

The membership vote on 21 resolutions coincided with recommendations by the SAG board.

House Group Told AFM Retards Video

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—American Federation of Musicians' restrictions on music for television unquestionably have reduced the value and public interest of television programs, Bond Geddes, executive vice-president of the Radio Manufacturers Association, today told a House labor committee holding hearings to develop legislation to curb the AFM and AFM president James C. Petrillo.

Geddes said continuance of the ban would retard what many in the industry believe will be an even greater new American service and industry than radio.

Petrillo Is Acquitted Of Lea Act Violation

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, today won acquittal in Federal Court here on a charge of violating the Lea Act. Judge Walter J. La Buy ruled that the Government had failed to prove its case. The decision cannot be appealed.

The Government contended that Petrillo had flouted the law by trying to force WAAF, Chicago radio station, to engage more musicians than it needed.

SPG Asks Reargument

Herman Glickstein, attorney for the Screen Publicists Guild, has applied for reargument of the case in which New York State Supreme Court Justice Henry C. Greenberg ruled last week in favor of 20th Century-Fox's motion to preclude arbitration proceedings growing out of the company's firing of nine persons last August.

Grant 'U' Extension

Universal Pictures, Nate J. Blumberg, president, and four directors of Universal, were granted an extension yesterday to Jan. 23 to file answers in the Bertha T. Aine stockholders' suit, according to a stipulation filed in the U. S. District Court here. The suit seeks to collect for the corporation over $250,000, said to have been made by the five on Universal stock.

News Briefs . . .

DONALD NELSON, whose resignation as president of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers will become effective on Jan. 31, said here yesterday following his arrival from Hollywood and Washington that his future plans are undecided. He indicated, however, that he will not re-enter Government service. Nelson said he has "no idea" as to who will succeed him as SIMPP president.

Cresswell Named Manager and McCormick, Representative

Realart Pictures, here, erroneously announced on Jan. 5 that Tom McCormick was appointed manager of Selected Pictures in Kansas City. McCormick was appointed special representative and Norris Cresswell was made branch manager, it was announced yesterday by Frank Childs, president of Selected, who holds the Realart franchise for that territory.

Para. Combines, Writing, Story Units Under Cleaver

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14. — Paramount has combined its story and writing departments with Frank Cleaver, head of the writing department, in charge. Richard Sokolov, head of the story department, submitted his resignation yesterday.

Files on Drive-In Patents

MEMPHIS, Jan. 14.—Flexer Drive-In Theatres, Inc., has been given 20 days to answer a complaint filed in U. S. District Court at Wilmington, Del., charging it with patent infringement. The suit was filed yesterday by Park-In Theatres, Camden, but asked no specific damages.

Leonard Kalish, Philadelphia attorney for Park-In, said the patent held by the latter covers car ramps in parking areas of outdoor theatres.

Music Hall Books 'Double Life'

Following its Academy Award engagement at the Guild Theatre in Los Angeles, "A Double Life" has been booked into the Radio City Music Hall, New York, to follow "The Paradine Case." William A. Scully, distribution vice-president of Universal-International, said the Kanin production will be the first U-I picture to play the Hall.

BORIS VERMONT, who recently completed an assignment for 20th-International which included the production of a series of shorts, "The World Today," will return to his former post as head of the corporation's foreign versions department, it was announced here yesterday by Murray Silverstone.

Edward Leggewie, who held the post during Vermont's absence, will shortly be promoted to a new assignment in Europe.

Capt. Harold Auten Honored By Netherlands Government

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. — Captain Harold Auten, in charge of playing arrangements for J. Arthur Rank's "Henry V" in the United States and Canada, and American representative for Greater Union Theatres of Australia, was invested with the Order of Orange Nassau with Swords, Degree of Commander, by the Netherlands Ambassdor, Dr. Van Kleffens, at the Embassy here today.

The award was made in recognition of Capt. Auten's services to the Netherlands cause during World War II, in which he served for six years as British Routing Liaison officer in charge of Allied foreign flag ships sailing from New York.

Capt. Auten recently was awarded the Legion of Merit, Degree of Officer, by President Truman.

Jerry Fairbanks to Produce For National Broadcasting

An agreement between the NBC television network and independent producer Jerry Fairbanks, calling for the production of motion pictures especially for television, has been consummated.

Under its terms, Fairbanks will produce for NBC during the next five years films of all types and lengths. The network will acquire all distribution rights and Fairbanks will be responsible for production under NBC's general supervision.

Walker Memorial Dinner

A memorial dinner for the late Mayor James J. Walker was held last night in the Waldorf-Astoria here. Funds were raised at the dinner for a memorial to New York City's ex-mayor, who was a founder of the Picture Pioneers.

Pickford Back from Canada Charity Drive

Mary Pickford will return here this morning from a three-day trip to Canada, where she opened the $20,000,000 drive for the Canadian Council for Reconstruction, through UNESCO, and the United Nations Appeal for Children. Miss Pickford inaugurated the campaign last Monday night in Ottawa with the world premiere of her United Artists production, "Sleep, My Love."

Miss Pickford was accompanied to Ottawa by a UA contingent including Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., director of advertising-publicity; Joseph Unger, sales manager; and Ed Schnitzer, Eastern and Canadian sales head, and by Ralph Cohn, co-producer of the film; Sam Dembow, Jr., sales representative; Joseph Curtis, advertising representative of Weiss and Geller.

Delay PCCITO Meet

SEATTLE, Jan. 14.—The meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, scheduled to open here today, has been postponed until the middle of February. The date will be announced shortly.

It was announced in Los Angeles yesterday that the PCCITO trustees will hold their midwinter session in Seattle Feb. 17-19.

Sues on Billing

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14. — Actress Barbara Britton today filed a $100,000 damage suit against Paramount and William H. Pine Corp. charging them with failure to give her co-star billing on "Albuquerque," as allegedly stipulated in her contract. She also is asking the court to compel defendants to comply with the contract.

TOA in Jersey Hits Film Influence Poll

NEWARK, Jan. 14.—The New Jersey chapter of Theatre Owners of America has attacked the validity of an independent public opinion research poll which contends that three out of every five New Jersey residents who believe that motion pictures influence children also believe that the influence is "bad." The poll was conducted by The New Jersey Poll, which has headquarters in Princeton.

Expressing the criticisms of this state's exhibitors, TOA executives in a telegram to newspapers requested that newspapers printing the survey's contentions also publish the exhibitors' sentiments.

Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey has also joined in TOA's protest, it was reported today by a TOA spokesman.

Asserting that the poll appeared to be "a compilation of scattered opinions without reference to the qualifications or background of the persons interviewed," TOA added that since four-fifths of New Jersey's children are regular film patrons, "a conclusion that three out of four parents consider movies a bad influence would lead to the inference that New Jersey parents pay scant attention to their children's welfare." This is a conclusion which TOA "resents deeply" on behalf of patrons, TOA said.

Maurey Miller of Passaic signed the telegram as president of the TOA unit, Adam Adams of Newark as secretary, and Walter Reade, Jr., Red Bank, as director.

UA Meet On Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

sales manager; Paul N. Lazarus, Sr., contract manager; and Paul N. Lazarus, Jr., advertising-publicity director.

Also present will be the following district managers: Jack Ellis, New York; Clayton Eastman, New England; Fred M. Jack, Southern; Moe Dudelson, Central; W. E. Callaway, Western district manager; Charles S. Chaplan, Canadian.

Branch managers will include Nat Nathanson, Chicago; and Ralph Cramblet, Minneapolis. Abe Dickstein and Jack Wrege from the home office will also be present. Among films to be screened will be "Arch of Triumph," "They Passed This Way," and "A Miracle Can Happen."

Goldwyn Seeks Sale Of Studio's Site

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14.—Samuel Goldwyn's Formosa Corp. is seeking a court order for the sale of the property on which the Goldwyn studio stands. The property is jointly owned by Formosa, Mary Pickford and Lady Sylvia Stanley, with Miss Pickford holding the marginal majority, and has long been a source of conflict between Goldwyn and Miss Pickford.

The petition, asserting that construction of buildings on the site makes division impractical, asks the court to order sale so that the proceeds could be distributed among the owners.

Butte Revives Giveaways

BUTTE, Mont., Jan. 14. — Giveaways have been revived in this area, according to Hall Baetz, district manager for Fox-Intermountain.

The biggest opening of the year

ATLANTA
BOSTON
PROVIDENCE
ROCHESTER
SYRACUSE
BUFFALO
COLUMBUS
DAYTON
CLEVELAND
AKRON
CANTON
TOLEDO
HOUSTON
INDIANAPOLIS
EVANSVILLE
LOUISVILLE
KANSAS CITY
NEW ORLEANS
HARRISBURG
READING
PITTSBURGH
MEMPHIS
ST. LOUIS
BALTIMORE
NORFOLK
RICHMOND
NASHVILLE
SAN FRANCISCO
LOS ANGELES
PHILADELPHIA
TORONTO
MINNEAPOLIS
ST. PAUL
SEATTLE
SPRINGFIELD
WORCESTER
HARTFORD
DETROIT
DENVER
WILMINGTON



for . . . .

The first BIG picture of the year...



Mary Pickford presents the cast of the year

CLAUDETTE COLBERT* · ROBERT CUMMINGS · DON AMECHE

in

"Sleep, my Love"

with RITA JOHNSON · GEORGE COULOURIS · RALPH MORGAN and

HAZEL BROOKS

• Produced by Chas. Buddy Rogers and Ralph Cohn

Associate Producer Harold Greene • Directed by DOUGLAS SIRK

Screenplay by St. Clair McKelway and Leo Rosten

Director of Photography Joseph Valentine, A.S.C. • A Triangle Production



*Once again in the Top Ten in Fame's '47 Poll

WIDE AWAKE EXHIBITORS ARE BOOKING "SLEEP"...thru UA

Key City Gross

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"The Bishop's Wife," "Killer McCoy" and "The Paradine Case" registered well in a week in which grosses generally ranged from fair to poor. There was only one new entry during the week. Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 14:

THE BISHOP'S WIFE (RKO-Goldwyn)—CARTHAY CIRCLE (1,516) (80c-$1.20) 3rd week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $9,500)
CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $15,700)
CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $21,700)
CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,000)
CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,800)
CHRISTMAS EVE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $4,300)
CHRISTMAS EVE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown (960) (65c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $9,600)
CHRISTMAS EVE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) (1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $5,200)
CHRISTMAS EVE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $4,300)
GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT (20th-Fox)—PALACE (1,237) (80c-$1.20-$1.50) 3rd week. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $21,000)
GENTLEMAN'S ARGEEMENT (20th-Fox)—FOX BEVERLY (1,350) (80c-$1.20-$1.50) 3rd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000)
KILLER McCOY (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $14,500. (Average: $13,900)
KILLER McCOY (M-G-M)—FOX-WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $13,800)
KILLER McCOY (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $21,200)
MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA (RKO Radio)—FOUR STAR (900) ($1.20-$1.80) 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,400)
MY WILD IRISH ROSE (WB)—WARNERS (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $16,300)
MY WILD IRISH ROSE (WB)—WARNERS (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $12,400)
MY WILD IRISH ROSE (WB)—WARNERS (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $12,600)
THE PARADINE CASE (SRO)—VOGUE (800) (85c-$1.20) 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $7,500)
ROAD TO RIO (Para.) and BIG TOWN AFTER DARK (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $21,000)
ROAD TO RIO (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $15,000)
THE SENATOR WAS INDISCREET (U-I) and THE CHINESE RING (Mono.)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,100)
THE SENATOR WAS INDISCREET (U-I)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $7,100)
THE SENATOR WAS INDISCREET (U-I)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,300)
THE SENATOR WAS INDISCREET (U-I)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $6,900)
THE SENATOR WAS INDISCREET (U-I) and THE CHINESE RING (Mono.)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $15,400)
T-MEN (E-L) and LINDA BE GOOD (E-L)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $6,600)
T-MEN (E-L) and LINDA BE GOOD (E-L)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $7,000)
T-MEN (E-L) and LINDA BE GOOD (E-L)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $14,300)
TYCOON (RKO Radio) and GLAMOUR GIRL (Col.)—HILLSREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $18,300)
TYCOON (RKO Radio) and GLAMOUR GIRL (Col.)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $17,300)

MPF Financing

(*Continued from page* 1)

dition to Fabian and Goldenson, the following: Harold Field, Karl Hoblitzelle, Richard F. Walsh, Ted Curtis, Albert Warner, Arthur Schoenstadt and Fred Wehrenberg. Among those who were unable to attend yesterday's meeting were Walsh and Wehrenberg. MPF president E. V. Richards, Jr., also had planned to attend but a severe cold prevented his leaving New Orleans.

Depinet will soon call a meeting of the MPF program-and-scope committee, which he heads, to begin a survey of the industry's potential needs in terms of relief and assistance.

Salt Lake City MPF Meeting on Funds

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 14.—Members of the executive committee of the Rocky Mountain area, Motion Picture Foundation, met here to discuss plans for raising money for promoting funds to administer the foundation in this region.

Sam Gillette, permanent trustee; Don Tibbs, area chairman; Ray M. Hendry, vice-chairman, and Helen Garrity, secretary, attended.

Brandt Answers

(*Continued from page* 1)

picture deals and seeking recovery of $563,265.

Last year Brandt settled a 20th Century-Fox claim of similar nature for $237,000 after it had been arbitrated by Spyros Skouras, 20th-Fox president. Warner Brothers and Loew's, Inc., also have claims pending against Brandt and it was learned that both the Internal Revenue Bureau and Department of Justice are studying the situation.

The Paramount action, filed early this week, is the largest both in recovery sought and defendant theatre operations involved ever instituted in the industry involving alleged fraudulent reports and practices in connection with the playing of percentage engagements. In commenting on the action, Harry Brandt characterized it as typical of monopolistic pressure on the independent.

Malco Settlement

(*Continued from page* 1)

defendants with operating a monopoly in film distribution in Memphis.

Walter Armstrong, Jr., said the suit was settled for a substantial sum. He is an attorney for the plaintiffs. No details of the new distribution plan worked out for Memphis as part of the settlement were given in the order.

Federal Judge Marion S. Boyd signed the agreement.

Lana Turner Suspended

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—For her refusal of a role in "Three Musketeers," Lana Turner was today suspended by M-G-M, on the eve of the start of production. No replacement has yet been made.

French's Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

ford Cripps apparently unalterably opposed to the American companies' taking out of Britain remittances in excess of 25 per cent of the approximately $68,000,000 withdrawn annually heretofore, it is unlikely that the French proposal would work to the advantage of U. S. companies.

Sir Henry had indicated that the British government would be willing to discuss adjustments which would allow the American industry to retain revenues earned in the U. S. by British pictures in addition to amounts earned in Britain by American pictures *after* the *ad valorem* duty is paid. Thus far MPAA president Eric A. Johnston, now in Hollywood, has declined to comment on the offer.

It is believed by some here that the French proposal might be a move to secure for British productions released in the U. S. a volume of promotion and expenditure for promotion comparable to that accorded Hollywood product. Question in the minds of those who take this view is whether even with such promotional efforts British films would return anything like a figure substantial enough to endow Sir Henry's plan with any practical value to the American industry as a whole.

No Tax Cut, "Film Famine" Notwithstanding, Says UK

LONDON, Jan. 14.—Britain will not reduce its 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax on American films in the near future, even if it means a "famine of films" here, a high British government source said here today.

"We can't afford to export $75,000,000 worth of food," the source said, "and that is what this would amount to."

U.S. - Industry Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

the industry representatives to give the Administration two to three weeks to complete facts and figures on the extent of the problem, where the funds are accumulating, how fast, and other pertinent information.

State Department officials have long contended that "We can't go anywhere without the facts."

It was understood that the State Department officials at the luncheon expressed doubt that the Mundt Bill as presently drawn gave them authority to assume the film industry's out-of-pocket expenses for distribution overseas and also raw stock costs.

Outright purchase of films by the State Department is under study, one official admitted, but the problem then arose as to who was entitled to the overseas revenues on the pictures. He thought the revenues belonged to the Government, he said, adding that the matter would finally be decided by the Department's lawyers.

Truman's Tax Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

apparently has abandoned that form of tax relief in favor of the $40 credit.

The bill would apply a 7 per cent tax on all profits in excess of 135 per cent of prewar profits plus an additional $50,000 exemption. Prewar profits would be determined either on the basis of the 1935-39 average or capital investment. The company would take 135 per cent of that figure, add on $50,000, and then pay the Government 75 per cent of everything over the total.

U. S. May Seek

(*Continued from page* 1)

industry is sending abroad to our whole foreign program."

He also made clear that early attention, both in the State Department and Congress, would be focused on solving the industry's 'frozen' funds problems.

Under the Mundt Bill, the State Department is authorized to set up various special committees to deal with special problems, and Smith indicated one might be set up on the frozen funds situation and another on the export standards. On the other hand, negotiations might proceed on a more informal basis, the New Jersey Republican admitted.

The report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, made public yesterday, said that the committee "applauds all efforts which attempt by self-discipline and by self-regulatory agreement to discourage the export of sub-standard American products in the educational and informational fields." "This is a plea for quality export and not for censorship," the report added.

Smith said he thought the film and other communication industries had been doing a "yeoman job of holding the fort," for the Government's overseas information service, and said he did not want them to be compelled to withdraw now because of the currency situation.

UK Film Boycott

(*Continued from page* 1)

volved are United Artists, Republic, Monogram and Eagle-Lion.

Meanwhile, Eagle-Lion expects to increase its importation of British films into the U. S. this year, according to A. W. Schwalberg, distribution vice-president, who reports that the company already has three British pictures scheduled for release in the U. S. in 1948: "The Smugglers," "Take My Life," and "October Man." Several more will follow, Schwalberg said. The company imported only four in 1947.


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MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	EAGLE-LION	M-G-M	MONO	PARA.	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Nov. 23	LAST DAYS OF BOOT HILL O THE CRIME DOCTOR'S GAMBLE D	SHADOW VALLEY Eddie Dean O—58 min. (Rev. 12/1/47) MAN FROM TEXAS James Craig O	(Nov. Releases) THIS TIME FOR KEEPS (Color) Esther Williams Jimmy Durante M-C—106 min. (808) (Rev. 10/7/47) GREEN DOLPHIN STREET Lana Turner Van Heflin D—141 min. (Rev. 10/16/47)			THE FLAME John Carroll Vera Ralston D—97 min. (628) (Rev. 1/13/48)	(Block 1) SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE Phillip Terry Jacqueline White C—68 min. (804) (Rev. 6/10/47)	THE INVISIBLE WALL Don Castle D—73 min. (Rev. 10/20/47) (Reissue) THE MARK OF ZORRO Tyrone Power D—93 min. (Rev. 11/6/40)		(Nov. Releases) THE EXILE Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Maria Montez D—95 min. (Rev. 10/20/47)	
Nov. 30				THE CHINESE RING Roland Winters D—68 min. (Rev. 12/18/47)	BIG TOWN AFTER DARK Philip Reed Hilary Brooke D—69 min. (4706) (Rev. 11/17/47)		THE BACHELOR AND THE BOBBY SOXER Cary Grant Myrna Loy Shirley Temple C—95 min. (801) (Rev. 6/3/47)	(Reissue) DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK Claudette Colbert D—103 min. (Rev. 11/6/39)	(Tola) THE ROOSEVELT STORY Doc.—77 min. (Rev. 7/8/47)	THE UPTURNED GLASS James Mason D—87 min. (Rev. 10/23/47)	(Reissue) ANTHONY ADVERSE Fredric March Olivia de Havilland D—138 min. (Rev. 5/11/36)
Dec. 7	IT HAD TO BE YOU Ginger Rogers Cornel Wilde C—98 min. (Rev. 10/20/47)	CHEYENNE TAKES OVER "Lash" La Rue O—58 min. (Rev. 12/16/47		JIGGS AND MAGGIE IN SOCIETY Joe Yule Renie Riano C		THE GAY RANCHERO (Color) Roy Rogers O—72 min. (Rev. 1/9/48)	UNDER THE TONTO RIM Tim Holt Nan Leslie O—61 min. (805) (Rev. 6/17/47)	(Nov. Release) THUNDER IN THE VALLEY (Color) Lon McCallister D—103 min. (720) (Rev. 6/5/47)	(Enterprise) BODY AND SOUL John Garfield Lilli Palmer D—104 min. (Rev. 8/13/47)	(Dec. Release) PIRATES OF MONTEREY (Color) Maria Montez Rod Cameron D—77½ min. (Rev. 11/14/47)	(Reissue) JEZEBEL Bette Davis D—103 min. (Rev. 3/9/38)
Dec. 14	DEVIL SHIP Richard Lane D BLONDIE'S ANNIVERSARY Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C		(Dec. Releases) KILLER McCOY Mickey Rooney Brian Donlevy D—105 min. (Rev. 10/27/47)			BANDITS OF DARK CANYON Allan "Rocky" Lane O—59 min. (Rev. 12/15/47)	RIFF-RAFF Pat O'Brien Anne Jeffreys D—80 min. (803) (Rev. 6/12/47)	(Dec. Releases) ROSES ARE RED Don Castle D—66 min. (734) (Rev. 11/7/47)	(Bischoff) INTRIGUE George Raft June Havoc D—90 min. (Rev. 12/24/47)	THE LOST MOMENT Robert Cummings Susan Hayward D—89 min. (Rev. 10/14/47)	MY WILD IRISH ROSE (Color) Dennis Morgan D—101 min. (Rev. 12/11/47)
Dec. 21	ROSE OF SANTA ROSA Patricia White O		GOOD NEWS (Color) June Allyson Peter Lawford D—95 min. (Rev. 12/4/47)		ROAD TO RIO Bing Crosby Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour C—100 min. (4707) (Rev. 11/11/47)			DAISY KENYON Joan Crawford Dana Andrews Henry Fonda D—99 min. (731) (Rev. 11/25/47)		BLACK NARCISSUS (Color) Deborah Kerr D—100 min. (Rev. 7/8/47)	
Dec. 28		LINDA BE GOOD Elyse Knox Marie Wilson C—66 min. (Rev. 11/29/47)		SMART POLITICS June Preisser Freddie Stewart D				(Reissue) TOBACCO ROAD Gene Tierney D—84 min. (744) (Rev. 2/21/41)			
Jan. 4	(Jan. Releases) THE SWORDSMAN (Color) Larry Parks D—81 min. (Rev. 10/17/47)	T-MEN Dennis O'Keefe D—91 min. (Rev. 12/12/47)	(Jan. Releases) CASS TIMBERLANE Spencer Tracy Lana Turner D—120 min. (Rev. 11/5/47)	GUN TALK Johnny Mack Brown O		MAIN STREET KID Al Pearce C	(Block 2) NIGHT SONG Dana Andrews D—102 min. (806) (Rev. 11/12/47)	(Reissue) GRAPES OF WRATH Henry Fonda D—128 min. (745) (Rev. 11/25/40)			ALWAYS TOGETHER Robert Hutton C—78 min. (713) (Rev. 12/17/47)
Jan. 11	I LOVE TROUBLE Franchot Tone D—94 min. GLAMOUR GIRL Gene Krupa Orch. M MARY LOU Frankie Carle Orchestra M	HEADING FOR HEAVEN Stuart Erwin C—71 min. (Rev. 12/17/47)	IF WINTER COMES Walter Pidgeon Deborah Kerr D—98 min. (Rev. 12/23/47)	(Allied Artists) SONG OF MY HEART Frank Sundstrom O—85 min. (4) (Rev. 11/6/47)	I WALK ALONE Burt Lancaster Lizabeth Scott D—98 min. (4708) (Rev. 12/16/47)	SLIPPY McGEE Donald Barry Dale Evans D—65 min. (702)	DICK TRACY MEETS GRUESOME D—62 min. (809) (Rev. 9/29/47)			(Jan. Releases) THE SENATOR WAS INDISCREET William Powell Ella Raines Peter Lind Hayes C—81 min. (Rev. 12/15/47)	
Jan. 18	PRINCE OF THIEVES (Color) Jon Hall D—72 min.	CHECK YOUR GUNS Eddie Dean O—55 min. (Rev. 11/18/47)		SONG OF THE DRIFTER Jimmy Wakely O JOE PALOOKA in FIGHTING MAD			SO WELL REMEMBERED John Mills Martha Scott D—114 min. (807) (Rev. 11/29/47)	(Jan. Releases) CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE (Color) Tyrone Power D—140 min. (801) (Rev. 11/26/47)	(Jan. Releases) (Triangle) SLEEP MY LOVE Claudette Colbert Robert Cummings Don Ameche D—97 min. (Rev. 1/12/48)		THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE Humphrey Bogart Walter Huston D—126 min. (714) (Rev. 1/7/48)
Jan. 25		THE SMUGGLERS Michael Redgrave D	TENTH AVENUE ANGEL Margaret O'Brien George Murphy (Rev. 1/13/48)	PERILOUS WATERS Don Castle D—66 min. (4707)			WILD HORSE MESA Tim Holt O—61 min. (808) (Rev. 11/17/47)	THE TENDER YEARS Joe E. Brown D—81 min. (803) (Rev. 12/8/47)	(Gainsborough) MAN OF EVIL James Mason Phyllis Calvert D	CAPTAIN BOYCOTT Stewart Granger Kathleen Ryan D—92 min. (Rev. 11/24/47)	
Feb. 1			(Feb. Releases) HIGH WALL Robert Taylor D—99 min. (Rev. 12/17/47)	OVERLAND TRAIL Johnny Mack Brown O		CAMPUS HONEYMOON Richard Crane C	OUT OF THE PAST Robert Mitchum D-97 min. (Rev. 11/17/47)				MY GIRL TISA Lilli Palmer D

[Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily Review Date.

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VOL. 63. NO. 11 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1948 TEN CENTS

Plan Millions Cut in Canada Film Revenue

Fitzgibbons-Howe Parley Outlines Dollar Saving

TORONTO, Jan. 15. — An agreement on measures to be adopted whereby several millions of dollars would be cut from Canadian film revenue going to American companies was reached in Ottawa between J. J. Fitzgibbons, chairman of the Canadian film industry's "dollar saving" committee, and C. D. Howe, Dominion Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, it was disclosed here today following Fitzgibbons' return from the Canadian capital.

Fitzgibbons, who is president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., was

(*Continued on page 3*)

Talks with Hughes Disclosed by Odlum

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15.—Following reports of negotiations for purchase of part or all of the 935,000 shares of RKO stock controlled by Floyd Odlum's Atlas Corp., Odlum today confirmed that Howard Hughes "has recently had some general and tentative conversations with me" relative to purchase of the stock.

"But these conversations could hardly be classified as negotiations," he added.

Atlas Corp., since completion of its reorganization more than a year ago, has been willing to step out of its control position "to the right people at the proper price" but at no time has it either offered its present holding for sale or fixed a price that it would accept, he said.

Under today's almost panicky conditions in the production end of the film industry, it is doubtful if any person or group "of substance within the industry has the combined money and nerve to meet the faith of Atlas Corp. in the future of the industry," Odlum declared.

Chamie Named Aide To AMPP's Boren

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15. — Alfred T. Chamie has resigned as United States assistant attorney here to become assistant to Charles Boren, vice-president in charge of labor relations for the Association of Motion Picture Producers.

Pact Soon On NY Operators

A mutually satisfactory settlement of the long-standing wage raise dispute between IATSE projectionists' Local No. 306 here and local affiliated circuits has been virtually accomplished, it was reported yesterday by a "306" spokesman following the union's review of last Tuesday's negotiations. Some 800 projectionists and 125 theatres are involved.

Only "a couple of minor items" have yet to be ironed out, and apparently the next negotiation meeting will be the final one preliminary to the signing of a new contract, it was said. "IA" international president Richard F. Walsh has been sitting in on the negotiations for the past several weeks, having been requested to by the local when a deadlock threatened to bring about a strike.

The wage settlement calls for the circuits to meet on a dollars-and-cents basis the 15 per cent pay increase granted last year by local independent circuits. The independents' contract calls for a straight 15 per cent raise, but since the wage scale for affiliated circuit projectionists is already considerably higher, the latter will receive increases of smaller amounts than the independents' projectionists. Herman Gelber is president of "306."

Speculating Over Mexico Remittances

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 15.—Distributors of American and other foreign pictures who send money abroad are wondering how much longer Mexico will share with Cuba the position of being the only remaining Latin American countries that have no restrictions on remittances. At present there are no signs of such a restriction by Mexico, but opinion in the trade is that if a restriction comes it will come suddenly, without warning.

ASCAP GRANTS 45 DAYS EXTENSION

$45 - Million Mundt Bill Cost in 2 Years

Washington, Jan. 15.—Senator Smith said he understands the State Department has estimated it would need an additional $5,000,000 in its budget for 1948-49 to apply the Mundt Bill, which would authorize the Department's overseas information program. A $40,000,000 budget would be needed for 1948-49, it was said.

Smith is managing Senate action on the House-approved Mundt bill.

New Theatre Bldg. Planned Here

A new 13-story office, theatre and restaurant building is planned on the fringe of the Times Square area here under a $15,000,000 deal announced yesterday. Estimated to cost $6,000,000 for construction, the projected building will contain a 3,600-seat theatre equipped for television presentations and will be convertible for motion pictures or plays.

The block, bounded by Seventh Avenue and Broadway, 51 and 52 Streets, is now the site of a building which houses Harry Brandt's Republic Theatre.

Herbert J. Freezer, president of the Baychester Development Corp., here, is sponsor of the plan under a 90-year lease. Construction is expected to start within a year.

TOA Wins Added Time; Effective Date for Rates Is Now March 15

Board of directors of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers at a meeting here yesterday agreed to extend the effective date of new theatre music licensing rates 45 days beyond Feb. 1, the date on which Ascap's current contracts were scheduled to expire. The new effective date will be March 15.

Word of the board's decision was communicated to Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the Theatre Owners of America, who said that the extension was made by Ascap's board on the recommendation of TOA officials when it became apparent that the negotiations between the two organizations, now in progress, would not be completed by Feb. 1.

The negotiations are said to embody the preparation by Ascap officials of a new theatre licensing formula involving lower rates than those announced

(*Continued on page 3*)

Code Contemplated In US German Zone

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The Film Producers Association in the United States zone in Germany is contemplating a film Production code similar to this country's, the War Department said here today.

The code, which would be voluntary and self-enforced, as in the U. S. would be designed to eliminate censorship by the German government.

The War Department also reported the passage of an Allied Control Council law repealing two Nazi statutes dealing with films. The first

(*Continued on page 3*)

Need Export Licenses on Shipments After March 1

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Beginning March 1, all shipments of films and film equipment to Europe will require individual validated licenses, the Commerce Department announces.

Department officials emphasized that the new regulation does not mean an embargo will be placed on any particular goods for any particular country, but that the Department wants to insure a careful programming of the supply of essential goods to areas of greatest need and to limit the shipment of commodities which can make no contribution to world recovery.

Nathan Golden, Department motion picture consultant, said that he did not think film shipments would be curtailed by the new policy.

The licenses will be required for all countries of Continental Europe, the British Isles, Iceland, Turkey, Russia, all Asiatic possessions of the USSR and Turkey, Portugal, Tangier, Spain; all of Spain's colonial possessions, and the Mediterranean islands.

Congressman Asks PCA for Video

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The television industry would do well to adopt the same kind of voluntary, self-enforced production code as the motion picture industry, Rep. Samuel K. McConnell, Jr. (R., Pa.), told the Television Broadcasters Association today.

At the afternoon session of the

(*Continued on page 3*)

Personal Mention

RICHARD F. WALSH, president of IATSE, is due back in New York today from Detroit, where he attended the 40th anniversary celebration of "IA" Local No. 38.

•

J. R. McPHERSON, co-managing director of National Screen Service's London office, will sail tomorrow on the *SS. Queen Mary* after a month's stay in New York.

•

JOHN G. KEMPTGEN, M-G-M manager in Milwaukee, and HAZEL ANDERSON, M-G-M office manager at Omaha, were married Nov. 21, it was disclosed yesterday.

•

HARRY MICHALSON, RKO Radio short subject sales manager and RKO Pathe president, left here yesterday for Chicago en route to Hollywood.

•

DONALD HYDE, United States Pictures vice-president, is in New York from Hollywood for conferences with Warner executives.

•

LEONARD HIRSCH, home office assistant to M-G-M Southern sales manager RUDY BERGER, will leave here Sunday for Washington.

•

MORRIS GOODMAN, Discina International president, left here yesterday for Toronto for conferences with Empire-Universal, Ltd., executives.

•

RUBE JACKTER, Columbia assistant sales manager, will leave here Sunday for Philadelphia.

•

JAY RICHARD KENNEDY, of Kennedy-Buchman Pictures, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

R. N. Henry to Advise State Department

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The State Department has chosen R. Norton Henry, a veteran foreign service officer with wide experience in Latin-American countries and in the Department here, as its film adviser to succeed George Canty.

Henry is at present first secretary of the Embassy at Mexico City. He will take over his new job on Jan. 26.

Steele Appointed FC Production Chief

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—Fred Steele, who resigned from Monogram recently after 17 years' service, has been appointed Film Classics production supervisor by FC president Joseph Bernhard. Steele's headquarters will be at Nassour Studios.

$1.06 Univ. Dividend

Universal Pictures' board yesterday declared a regular quarterly dividend of $1.06 per share on the company's four and one-quarter per cent cumulative preferred stock, payable March 1 on shares of record on Feb. 16.

Edison's 'Cradle' of Films Open to Public

Thomas A. Edison's laboratory at West Orange, N. J., will be opened to the public on Feb. 11, 101st anniversary of the inventor's birth. The laboratory will serve as headquarters for the educational and research program of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, according to Charles F. Kettering, Foundation head.

In the laboratory, Edison developed the motion picture, improved phonographs, and hundreds of other items.

Company Chairmen Set for Scout Drive

Company chairmen in this year's Greater New York Boy Scout campaign were announced here yesterday.

Joseph R. Vogel will serve as chairman at Loew's, with John Murphy as vice-chairman; Joseph Bernhard, Film Classics, with Eugene Arnstein vice-chairman; Harry Kalmine, Warner Brothers, W. Stewart McDonald vice-chairman; Neil Agnew, Selznick Releasing Organization; Abe Schneider, Columbia; Malcolm Kingsberg and Ned Depinet, co-chairmen, RKO, with Leon Bamberger vice-chairman; Donald Henderson, 20th-Fox; Matty Fox, Universal-International; Al Schwalberg, Eagle-Lion; Charles Reagan, Paramount.

Fred Schwartz has been named chairman for independent theatres, with Myron Siegel vice-chairman; Emanuel Sachs, music publishers and composers; Milton Berle, artists; Frank Meyer, motion picture suppliers and laboratories, with Harry Nadel vice-chairman; Joseph Newman, ticket brokers.

Cagney Motion in UA Suit Put Off to Jan. 19

Motion by William Cagney and Cagney Productions to vacate summons of complaint served on them by United Artists as a preliminary to actions based on contracts with UA to compel delivery of "Time of Your Life" to the distributor was adjourned in New York Supreme Court here yesterday by Justice Benedict D. Dineen to Jan. 19. Action on the motion was due yesterday.

Basis of the motion is that the Cagney producing company never did business in New York State and therefore is not subject to summons of complaint here.

Academy Ballots Mailed

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has distributed 12,000 ballots to its own and talent guild memberships for nominations in the picture, actor, director and writer categories in the 20th annual award balloting. Nominations will be announced Feb. 16.

Dismiss 'Rebecca' Plagiarism Case

Federal Judge John Bright yesterday dismissed a plagiarism suit brought against Daphne Du Maurier, British novelist and author of "Rebecca"; "United Artists and Selznick International Pictures and David O. Selznick.

The suit, instituted by J. Clifford MacDonald of Tampa, as son and administrator of Mrs. Edwina DeVin MacDonald, charged Miss Du Maurier with infringement of a short story written by Mrs. MacDonald in 1924 and a novel in 1927.

Eyssell Host to Valli

Gus Eyssell, president and managing director of Radio City Music Hall, was host at a cocktail party for Valli at the Music Hall studio apartment here yesterday. Guests included trade and metropolitan press representatives, Mervyn and Mrs. LeRoy, Martin Quigley, Jack Alicoate, Robert M. Gillham and others.

'Life' Music Hall Run

Universal-International's "A Double Life" is not the first U-I picture to be booked into the Music Hall, here, as reported yesterday, but, rather, is the first to play the Hall since that company's "The Egg and I."

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK - Ann TODD - Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN - Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

starring RONALD REAGAN ELEANOR PARKER EVE ARDEN WAYNE MORRIS
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE
WARNER THEA
Opens 10:30 am • LATE MIDNIGHT FILM • B'way at 51st

BOB HOPE SIGNE HASSO WM. BENDIX in "WHERE THERE'S LIFE" A Paramount Picture
in Person STAN KENTON And His Orchestra JUNE CHRISTY Extra VIC DAMONE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

OPENS 9:15 A.M. • B'WAY AT 47th
LATE STAGE AND SCREEN SHOW 10:15 P.M.
WARNERS' STRAND
DENNIS MORGAN in "MY WILD IRISH ROSE" COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON THE INK SPOTS EXTRA! HERBIE FIELDS AND HIS ORCHESTRA

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
JOHN WAYNE · LARAINE DAY in TYCOON
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

WALT DISNEY'S Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

IT'S GOT THAT ACADEMY AWARD LOOK!
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT · LORETTA YOUNG · DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

PAULETTE GODDARD
"AN IDEAL HUSBAND"
A 20th Century-Fox Release in Technicolor
PLUS ON STAGE
ILONA MASSEY . ROSARIO & ANTONIO
VASSO ARGYRIS . ROLLY ROLLS
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

The THEATRE GUILD presents the RKO RADIO PICTURE
"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA"
TWICE DAILY 2:30 and 8:30 PM
3 PERFORMANCES SUNDAY at 2:00, 5:15 and 8:30 PM
RESERVED SEATS ONLY
GOLDEN THEATRE 45th St. W. of B'way

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR 20th CENTURY-FOX 7th Ave. & 47th St.

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Utica Owners Hear Dewey Tax Assailed

UTICA, N. Y., Jan. 15. — Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's recommendation to the legislature that the state's five per cent enabling tax on amusements be extended to include all cities of less than 1,000,000 population was sharply attacked here yesterday by Harry Lamont, temporary chairman of the Theatre Owners of America's Albany unit, before a meeting of Utica area exhibitors in the Hotel Martin here.

Lamont, who explained to the meeting TOA's aims and purposes, urged the exhibitors to join with the Albany TOA promptly so that they may oppose effectively any extension of the special permissive local taxing program.

St. Louis Exhibitors Sue City on 5% Tax

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 15. — The city and license collector Frank A. Britton were named defendants in a suit contesting the validity of the new five per cent city tax on theatre admissions.

Plaintiffs include Fanchon and Marco, Kaimann, Anritz Amusement Co., Ansell Amusement Co., Eden Theatre Co., O'Fallon Theatre Co., Pauline Theatre, Loew's State, Movie Enterprises, Palm Theatre Co., St. Louis-Ambassador Theatre, Inc.; St. Louis Missouri Theatre, Inc., and St. Louis Amusement Co.

Regional Coverage By 'Reels' Asked

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 15.—Complimenting some newsreel companies for supplying regional news, the board of directors of Kansas-Missouri Theatre Association today voted to request film companies to put more newsreel men in the field to step up coverage of news of regional interest. The board, which approved the lease of their new headquarters here, also is setting up legislative committees in Congressional districts of Kansas and Western Missouri.

UTA Board Meet

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 15.—A meeting of the board of directors of the Utah Theatres Association will be held in the 20th-Century Fox screening room here on Jan. 20, Ralph Trathen, secretary, announces.

Ascap Extension

(*Continued from page* 1)

late last summer. MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported on Wednesday that a new formula had not been completed, and that a time extension, therefore, was in the offing.

Yesterday's extension was the second which has been made by the Ascap board. The first was for three months, from Nov. 1, 1947, which was stipulated originally, to Feb. 1.

Coyne expressed gratification at yesterday's development, and said he hoped that the additional period would be adequate to bring about a complete "meeting-of-the-minds" between exhibitors and Ascap.

No date has been set for the next meeting between Ascap and TOA representatives. Coyne said, however, that he believes such a meeting will be arranged within the next 10 days.

Reviews

"You Were Meant for Me"

(*20th Century-Fox*) *Hollywood, Jan.* 15

DAN DAILEY proves by bettering it, that his sparkling performance in "Mother Wore Tights" was no fluke, but rather a starting point for what promises to be a brilliant box-office career. With demure Jeanne Crain opposite and able Oscar Levant alongside, he recreates with complete authenticity, and to a nostalgic score including a half-dozen 1929 song hits, the brash, flamboyant type of dance-bandleader who was the idol of young America as the Roaring 20's rocketed into the market crash and depression. The production compares most directly, categorically, to the same studio's "Margie" and should meet with the same kind of acceptance.

The setting is the Middle West, where bandleader Dailey is touring the flapper dance circuit by bus and setting records in one-night stands. Miss Crain and he fall in love on sight in Bloomington, she follows the band to Peoria and they marry without further ado. After two months' happiness on the road, the market crash wipes out Dailey's savings, the band's dates are cancelled, and they return to her home to await an upturn in their fortunes. His unwillingness to give up his career for bread-earning labor creates a strain which all but brings a separation before his business manager, Levant, arrives to pour oil on the domestic waters. The picture ends three years later with Dailey a bigtime bandleader and everybody contented.

The basic script, by Elick Moll and Valentine Davies, is unremarkable but adequate. The picture is at its best when Dailey is putting over the song hits of the period, working before his band, and in these numbers he makes most present-day crooners sound like amateurs. Production by Fred Kohlmar and direction by Lloyd Bacon is high grade in every particular.

Running time, 92 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Relentless"

(*Columbia*)

A GLAMORIZED Western, starring Robert Young and Marguerite Chapman, with Technicolor which accents the beautiful outdoor scenery which is one of the most appealing features of "Relentless." Young as the hero hunted by the law for crimes he did not commit, gives a good portrayal. Marguerite Chapman is very attractive as the girl who helps him prove his innocence. Support given by Akim Tamiroff as a racketeer and Barton MacLane as the killer is very good.

Two prospectors make a gold strike as Young arrives in town. Young is the sort who has great concern for his mare which is about to have a colt. Animal scenes are well done and add much interest to the film.

The two prospectors are found dead and their maps stolen. Young is suspected of the killings. The mare has her foal and one of the murderers steals the horse, racing her until she falls dead. Young finds that man and kills him. He decides to take care of the colt before turning himself in to the sheriff. Meanwhile Young meets Miss Chapman who operates a traveling general store. She helps him in his search for the second murderer. In a tense desert scene the second killer and Young fight it out. The sheriff arrives, Young is exonerated and he and Miss Chapman plan to marry.

A Cavalier production, produced by Eugene B. Rodney and directed by George Sherman. Winston Miller's screenplay was based on a story by Kenneth Perkins. The photography, by Edward Cronjaeger, is outstanding.

Running time, 93 minutes. General audience classification. Set for February release.

M.R.Y.

"Open Secret"

(*Marathon-Eagle-Lion*)

AS its initial production, Marathon offers a picture dealing with a subject that leaves no question of the ease with which the film can be exploited. The offering's concern with tolerance, with emphasis on anti-Semitism, lends it a timeliness and an interest that should be reflected in favorable box-office returns.

While the picture admittedly is a modest recruit to the ranks of entertainment dedicated to the advancement of tolerance, it has qualities that make it stand out both as entertainment and as an argument for the cause it promotes. It tells its story with burning sincerity and with considerable forcefulness and conviction; its effectiveness is enhanced by the bare simplicity with which it puts over its message, and it makes its point without forgetting the importance of action as a box-office asset.

Under the forthright direction of John Reinhardt, who worked from a screenplay by Henry Blankfort and Max Wilk, bolstered by additional dialogue by John Bright, "Open Secret" spins a taut tale of a campaign of terror against Jews and foreigners in a city neighborhood under the dominance of a gang of hatemongers. The campaign is conducted with a violence and a vengeance that create much tension and excitement. Into the situation walk John Ireland and Jane Randolph, newlyweds, whose interest in what is happening leads to the exposure of the villains and the end of the reign of terror. Frank Satenstein produced with a cast of earnest performers.

Running time, 70 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, February.

Davis Film Retitled

The new Bette Davis picture in production at the Warner studios under the title of "Winter Meeting" has been retitled "Strange Meeting."

Oklahoma Price Cut

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 15.—The Home Theatre, here, has announced one of the first price reductions in this area in the past eight years. Management cut prices up to 15 cents.

Consider Canada's Outdoors for Color

Ottawa, Jan 15.—Hollywood producers plan the filming of several Technicolor features in Western Canada in the near future, including several Westerns, which are to be "shot" in the open regions, this to fit into the overall program to conserve U. S. dollars as well as to develop the motion picture industry in this country.

Canada Revenue

(*Continued from page* 1)

reported to have been assured that short subjects would be produced in the Dominion by Hollywood subsidiary companies which also would undertake location work in Canada for feature pictures. The shorts would be sold abroad and their revenue would revert to Canada, thus helping to relieve the tight dollar position here.

The film industry is willing to carry out governmental suggestions for the conservation of Canadian dollars, Fitzgibbons told Howe, and he was said to have assured the official that there will be wider foreign distribution of National Film Board of Canada pictures to help raise revenue from abroad.

Code Contemplated

(*Continued from page* 1)

vested censorship of German and imported films in the Ministry of Propaganda, and the second set up a provisional film chamber for the purposes of carrying out censorship, Department spokesmen said.

Officials here said that the repeal of the statutes was necessary to eliminate any future censorship by the German government.

(*Editor's Note—H. zu Loewenstein,* MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondent in Germany, has been active in promoting a U. S.-German zone motion picture code based on the American industry's model, ever since his return to Germany from New York one year ago. He had been in this country from Germany for a number of years*).

PCA for Video

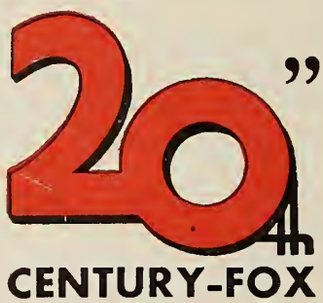
(*Continued from page* 1)

House Labor Committee's hearings on the American Federation of Musicians and its president, James C. Petrillo, McConnell criticized a television broadcast made last night, in which a Senator was portrayed as taking graft. He told TBA head J. R. Poppele that television broadcasters should use the same kind of system as the film industry. Although McConnell apparently did not have too clear an idea of the mechanism used by the film industry, he was obviously referring to the motion picture production code.

70 Mexican Films Scheduled for 1948

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 15. — Feature production in Mexico in 1948 will total at least 70, the National Association of Producers and Distributors discloses, adding that its figure applies to films produced by Mexicans as well as those made by Americans and others.

"No other distributor enters 1948 in a greater blaze of glory than



—*Film Bulletin*

—because all of these great attractions are in release *NOW*!

GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT

10th WEEK, MAYFAIR, NEW YORK
10th WEEK, APOLLO, CHICAGO



The Most Acclaimed Picture In Screen History!

Darryl F. Zanuck presents GREGORY PECK, DOROTHY McGUIRE, JOHN GARFIELD in Laura Z. Hobson's "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" with Celeste Holm, Anne Revere, June Havoc, Albert Dekker, Jane Wyatt, Dean Stockwell, Sam Jaffe • Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK Screen Play by MOSS HART • Directed by ELIA KAZAN

CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE

Color by TECHNICOLOR



Now Setting Records Throughout The Land!

Darryl F. Zanuck presents "CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE" • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Starring TYRONE POWER with JEAN PETERS, CESAR ROMERO, JOHN SUTTON, LEE J. COBB, Antonio Moreno, Thomas Gomez, Alan Mowbray, Barbara Lawrence, George Zucco, Roy Roberts, Marc Lawrence • Directed by HENRY KING • Produced by LAMAR TROTTI • Screen Play by Lamar Trotti • From the Novel by Samuel Shellabarger

---

DAISY KENYON



The Woman And-Man Picture Of The Year!

JOAN CRAWFORD, DANA ANDREWS, HENRY FONDA in "DAISY KENYON" with Ruth Warrick, Martha Stewart, Peggy Ann Garner, Connie Marshall, Nicholas Joy, Art Baker Produced and Directed by OTTO PREMINGER • Screen Play by David Hertz • Based on the Novel by Elizabeth Janeway

---

FOREVER AMBER

Color by TECHNICOLOR



Motion Picture Herald Boxoffice Champion!

Darryl F. Zanuck presents "FOREVER AMBER" • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Starring LINDA DARNELL, CORNEL WILDE, RICHARD GREENE, GEORGE SANDERS as King Charles II with Glenn Langan, Richard Haydn, Jessica Tandy, Anne Revere, John Russell • Directed by OTTO PREMINGER • Produced by WILLIAM PERLBERG • From the Novel by Kathleen Winsor • Screen Play by Philip Dunne and Ring Lardner, Jr. • Adaptation by Jerome Cady

---

CALL NORTHSIDE 777



It Beats With A Pulse That Becomes Your Very Own!

JAMES STEWART in "CALL NORTHSIDE 777" with RICHARD CONTE, LEE J. COBB, HELEN WALKER and Betty Garde, Kasia Orzazewski, Joanne de Bergh, Howard Smith, Moroni Olsen, John McIntire, Paul Harvey • Directed by HENRY HATHAWAY • Produced by OTTO LANG Screen Play by Jerome Cady and Jay Dratler • Adaptation by Leonard Hoffman and Quentin Reynolds • Based on Articles by James P. McGuire

---

YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME



The Love, Songs, Laughter Of That Wonderful Flapper Age!

JEANNE CRAIN, DAN DAILEY in "YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME" with OSCAR LEVANT, BARBARA LAWRENCE, Selena Royle, Percy Kilbride, Herbert Anderson • Directed by LLOYD BACON • Produced by FRED KOHLMAR • Original Screen Play by Elick Moll and Valentine Davies

---

AN IDEAL HUSBAND

Color by TECHNICOLOR



From Alexander Korda!

PAULETTE GODDARD in Alexander Korda's Productian of Oscar WILDE'S "AN IDEAL HUSBAND" • Color by TECHNICOLOR with MICHAEL WILDING, DIANA WYNYARD Glynis Johns, Constance Callier, Sir Aubrey Smith, Hugh Williams • Produced and Directed by ALEXANDER KORDA • Screen Play by Lajos Biro • Fram the Play by Oscar Wilde

H.G.WELLS' FANTASTIC
OUT OF THIS WORLD SHOW!

REALART PICTURES PRESENTS

TWO BOX OFFICE HITS ON ONE GREAT PROGRAM



STARRING

Claude RAINS

IN

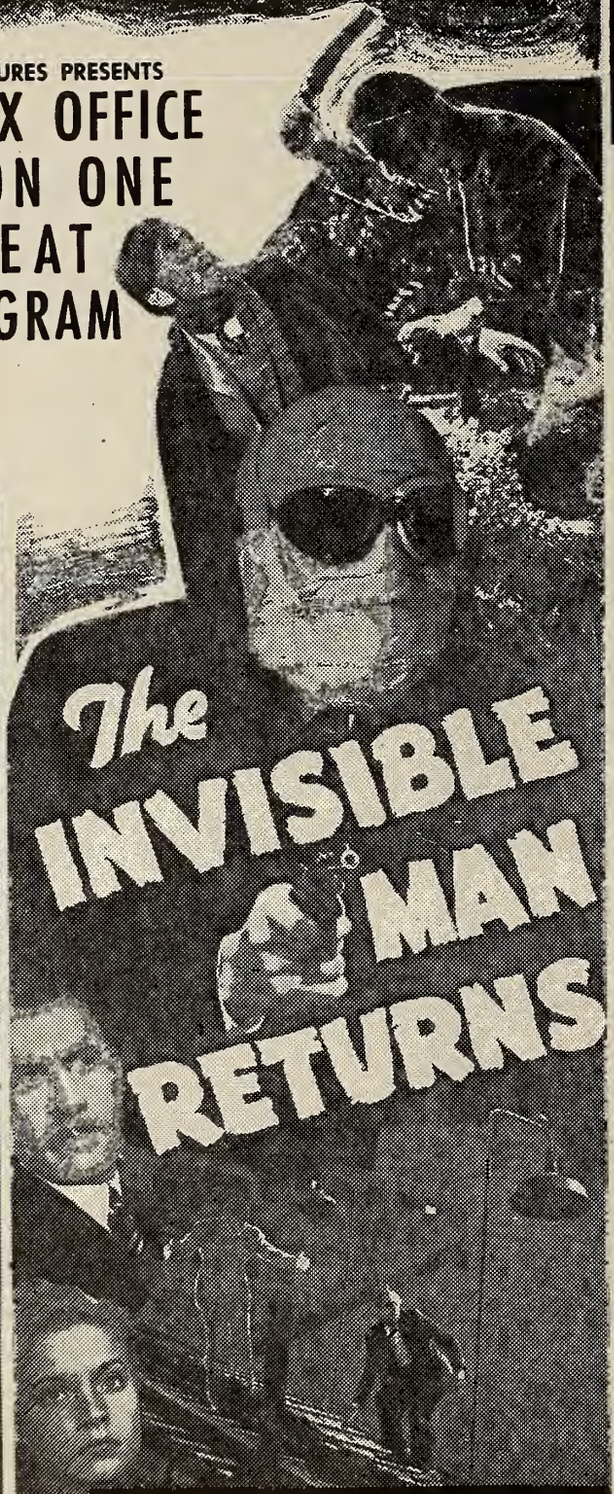
THE INVISIBLE MAN

WITH

GLORIA STUART · WM. HARRIGAN
DUDLEY DIGGES · UNA O'CONNOR
HENRY TRAVERS · FORRESTER HARVEY

Directed by **JAMES WHALE**





The INVISIBLE MAN RETURNS

with **SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE**
VINCENT PRICE · NAN GREY
John SUTTON · Cecil KELLAWAY

Directed by JOE MAY · Associate Producer KEN GOLDSMITH

AS A RESULT OF THE SENSATIONAL RECORD on the RKO Metropolitan Circuit, the INVISIBLE SHOW was moved into the Gotham Theatre for an extra Broadway run.

Also, terrific grosses in Cleveland, Boston, and in Detroit where it played ten theatres day and date.

Available NOW at these REALART franchise holders

Albany, Buffalo, New York
Principol Film Exchange Inc.
630 Ninth Ave., N. Y. C.

Atlanta
United Film Distributars, Inc.,
164 Woltan St., N.W., Atlonto Go.

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Embossy Pictures Carp.,
16 Piedmant St., Bostan, Mass.

Charlotte
Screen Guild Productions of the Carolinas, Inc.
300 West 3rd St., Chorlotte, N. C.

Chicago
Henri Elmon Enterprises, Inc.,
1327 So. Wobosh Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Cincinnatti, Indianapolis
Populor Pictures Carp.
1632 Central Pkwy., Cin., O.

Cleveland
Realort Pictures of Cleveland,
2108 Payne Ave., Clevelond, Ohia.

Dallas
Screen Guild Praductians af Texas,
308 Sa. Horwood St., Dallas, Texas.

Denver, Salt Lake City
Embassy Pictures
258 East First Street, So. Salt Lake City, Utah

Des Moines, Kansas City, Omaha
Selected Pictures, Inc.,
114 West 18th St., Konsas City, Mo.

Detroit
Allied Film Exchange,
2310 Coss Ave., Detrait, Mich.

Los Angeles
Reolart Pictures Ca. of Sa. Cal.
1928 S. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles, Col.

Minneapolis, Milwaukee
Independent Film Distributars,
111 No. 11th St., Minneopalis, Minn.

New Orleans
Screen Guild Productions af La.
218 So. Liberty St., New Orleans, La.

Oklahoma City
Screen Guild Praductians Inc., of Oklo.
P. O. Box 1961, Oklahamo City, Okla.

Philadelphia
Bax Office Pictures, Inc.
1301 Vine Street, Philodelphio, Pa.

Pittsburgh
Screen Guild Productions of Pittsburgh, Inc.
415 Van Broom St., Pittsburgh, Po.

Seattle, Portland
Favorite Films af Colifarnia.
2231 Secand Ave., Seattle, Wosh.

St. Louis
Screen Guild Productions af St. Louis.,
3324 Olive St., St. Lauis, Ma.

San Francisco
Favarite Films of California, Inc.,
261 Golden Gate Ave., San Froncisca, Col.

Washington, D. C.
Equity Film Exchonges, Inc.,
1001 New Jersey Ave., N. W.,
Washingtan, D. C.

REALART Pictures, Inc.

2 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK (16) N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 5-7428

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 12 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1948 TEN CENTS

Third Quarter Gross Totaled $149,155,000

Figure Is Exclusive of Paramount, W. B. Sales

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Gross sales of seven film companies in the third quarter of 1947 totaled $149,155,000, slightly lower than the $156,713,000 in the second quarter of 1947, and the $151,605,000 for the third quarter of 1946, according to a report of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Universal was the only company to gain from the second quarter of 1947 to the third quarter while Columbia and RKO sales dropped most sharply. Warner Brothers and Paramount did not report. The other six major companies and Republic are included.

Following is a breakdown of the figures for the seven production companies:

Columbia: 1947, third quarter, $6,475,000; second quarter, $9,080,000; third quarter 1946, $5,574,000. Loew's:

(*Continued on page 2*)

Skouras to UK on GB-Odeon Merger

Prior to his departure for England aboard the *S.S. Queen Mary* on Saturday, Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, said the purpose of his visit is to discuss with J. Arthur Rank the proposed merger of the Gaumont-British and Odeon circuits. Twentieth-Fox has a substantial interest in G-B.

Accompanying Skouras were Murray Silverstone, president of 20th-Fox International, and Otto Koegel, general counsel.

Skouras denied reports that his visit

(*Continued on page 3*)

Smith-Mundt Bill Passed By Senate

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—By a voice vote the Senate passed late Friday the Smith-Mundt Bill minus any provision for Government relief on the film industry's frozen funds problem, but still with some opening for slight Government aid to film distributors

(*Continued on page 3*)

Basis for Arguments Disclosed as Gov't, Majors Swap Briefs

Issues to be argued by major companies before the U. S. Supreme Court in their appeal from the statutory court's decision in the Federal anti-trust action were disclosed on Friday when appellant briefs were exchanged by the defendants and the Government in Washington.

The appellant briefs will be filed with answers in the Supreme Court by both sides on or before Feb. 2. Arguments are scheduled to open on Feb. 9.

Paramount, RKO, 20th-Fox and Loew's charged that the District court erred in enjoining the exhibitor defendants from expanding their theatre interests. The companies denied the existence of monopoly, and saw no reason for divestiture. It was asserted that the court was wrong in directing the termination of interests held with

(*Continued on page 3*)

Filming Costs Seen Higher by Presnell

Hollywood production costs must be lowered or there will be a drastic reduction in the number of pictures made, producer Robert Presnell, Sr., whose ARPI Productions releases through Film Classics, said here at the weekend. He added, however, that costs, now up 35 to 40 per cent over last year, are apparently heading further upward. Pressnell is in New York from Hollywood for conferences with Film Classics executives.

Pressnell reported that New York and Coast banks are backing "deserv-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Favor Curbs On Building

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The Administration favors continuing existing curbs on theatre and other amusement construction.

This is what Congressional committees studying extension of the present rent and housing law, which expires Feb. 29, will hear. Hearings opened in the Senate on Saturday. While no exact date has been set for early hearings before the House Banking and Currency committee, the line to be taken by housing expediter Tighe Woods and other housing officials is that there is still a shortage of building materials, and that so long as this exists, any restrictions on use of materials in non-housing fields will help.

House Committee Chairman Wolcott extends a ray of hope to theatre-owners, however. He states that his group will check to see how entertainment projects bulk in the entire construction picture.

Upped Prices for U-I's 'All My Sons'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 18.—Universal-International has set "All My Sons" for advanced admission price, road show engagements, William A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager, announced here at the weekend. Policy will be discussed at the first of a series of regional sales meetings to be held in San Francisco, Feb. 1.

Asserting that the present domestic market requires "specialized treatment of all pictures in order for the exhibitor, as well as the distributor, to get maximum results," Scully empha-

(*Continued on page 2*)

Both Parties Silent On Admission Tax

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—There is only one thing that Democratic and Republican Congressional tax plans have in common as of this writing: no mention of reducing the admission and other excise taxes.

All the controversy so far has been on how much individual incomes taxes should be cut. There has been no talk of excise tax cuts from any Congressmen or Government officials who have anything to say about taxes. If any excises are cut, they will probably be the widely-felt taxes on transportation and communications.

The House Ways and Means Committee on Friday heard Secretary of the Treasury Snyder oppose the Knutson tax reduction bill and urge the Administration's plan.

Snyder said the community property principle, increased exemptions, and percentage tax cuts of the Republican bill were a "major threat to the Nation's financial integrity and economic stability." The Republican members of the committee, and several of the Democrats, made it quite clear, on the other hand, that the Administration's revived excess profits tax is not going to make much progress in Congress either.

U. A. Proposes $6,000,000 UK Production

Creates British Company To Make 35 in 7 Years

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Arthur W. Kelly, executive vice-president of United Artists, who is en route back to New York board the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth,* is bringing with him a completed plan under which UA would launch a British production program involving 1,500,000 pounds ($6,000,000).

When Kelly was here four months ago, he completed similar negotiations whereby the same sum would be provided by substantial British interests for UA production here, but the British Treasury at that time refused to consent to the deal, maintaining it would be an infringement of last October's Exchange Control Act.

However, the present plan, which is a revamped version of the original one, has been approved by the British government. It calls for formation of an exclusively British company, with subsequent contracts providing for UA production assistance and distribution. It would operate for seven years with a yearly production of five films, all using American scripts, producers and one American star.

Kelly said UA producers, for exam-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Seek 'Loop' Decree Contempt Citations

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—Jackson Park Theatre attorneys on Friday asked Federal Judge Michael Igoe to order major distributors to "show cause" why they should not be cited in contempt for violation of the Jackson Park decree. U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently upheld a lower court's injunction against alleged

(*Continued on page 3*)

Canada Tax Going, Ontario's to Return

TORONTO, Jan. 18.—Mayor R. H. Saunders discloses here that Finance Minister D. C. Abbott of the Dominion government had notified him that the Federal 20 per cent war excise tax on theatre grosses would be abolished as soon as possible so that the

(*Continued on page 3*)

Personal Mention

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M exploitation head, will leave here tomorrow by plane for Cincinnati and Chicago.

•

MARK N. SILVER, Pennsylvania-Washington district manager for United Artists, has returned to his Philadelphia headquarters after attending a district managers' meeting at the home office here.

•

CHARLES SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity director, will return here today from Chicago, accompanied by SID BLUMENSTOCK, assistant exploitation manager.

•

MAX MILDER, Warner managing director in London, and MRS. MILDER were among passengers who arrived here at the weekend from England on the *SS Queen Mary*.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, is due to return to Washington today from a West Coast trip.

•

MOREY GOLDSTEIN, Monogram-Allied Artists' national sales manager, returned to New York at the weekend from an Ohio tour.

•

JACK SICHELMAN, assistant to 20th Century-Fox manager of branch operations CLARENCE HILL, has been confined to his home here by illness.

•

MARGARET ETTINGER, industry public relations counsel, is due here today from the Coast for a three-week stay.

•

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew vice-president and treasurer, will return to New York today from Hollywood.

•

A. KAPLAN, Brandt Theatres district manager, will return here today from a vacation.

Chi. 'T-Men' Promotion

Max E. Youngstein, Eagle-Lion advertising-publicity chief, is due to return to New York today from Chicago where he finalized arrangements with William Hollander, advertising-publicity head of Balaban and Katz circuit, and other Chicago circuit executives, on the forthcoming promotion of Edward Small's "T-Men," which E-L is releasing.

U-I Roadshow

(*Continued from page* 1)

sized that the quality of the production makes "road show and advanced admission price engagements" necessary.

The picture will be in the exchanges Feb. 1, but will not be released until April 15 to allow for its promotional campaign, he said.

"The present-day market certainly can accommodate this specialized type of distribution, particularly when the grandeur of the theme in such a picture cannot be put into proper focus unless the public is especially informed about its merits," Scully declared.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN, discoursing for publication last week, offered some observations on the industry's public relations with which many find it easy to agree, regardless of how much they may differ with him on other subjects on which he also expressed his views.

Said Goldwyn of industry public relations:

"We are not taking a long range view of the problems which confront us. Good public relations start with good private relations, and we must put our own house in order before we can hope to win the genuine good will of the public, on which good public relations are based. . . . The fault is not one-sided by any means and it must be corrected by the cooperative effort of all of us.

"If we have good private relations and produce good pictures our public relations will take care of themselves."

Good public relations too often are confused with good press relations, or simply with a "good press." In consequence, an altogether disproportionate amount of effort is expended upon the attainment of a "good press."

It may be assumed that Goldwyn had something of the sort in mind when he asserted that the industry lacks a long range view of its public relations problems.

•

The real public relations problems of the industry, as Goldwyn infers, are concerned solely with its customers and with itself.

It is up to Goldwyn's Hollywood to turn out the good pictures, which will take care of the industry's public relations with its customers.

It is up to the entire industry to end, insofar as possible, the causes of internecine strife which pit any branch of it against another branch, or any industry group against another. It is on strife of this kind that the unfriendly press goes to work and from it the unfavorable press results.

This department suggested recently that, since the industry now has bestirred itself into fashioning a permanent public relations committee, headed by Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, an early atempt at correcting conditions which help to maintain one segment of the industry in constant antagonism to other segments could be made.

It will need cooperation but a great deal of progress could be made unilaterally if wholehearted cooperation is not immediately forthcoming. If the industry's public relations committee is forced to work unilaterally, let it do so. If it succeeds in eliminating, or even lessening the causes for grievance on but one side, then to that extent will it have made the position of the antagonist that less tenable.

Men of good will and common sense will not long support any segment of the industry which stubbornly rejects overtures made in good faith and designed to improve the status of the individual and, through him, that of the industry.

• •

British government and industry sources were frankly disappointed over the American industry's reaction, or lack of it, to Sir Henry French's "barter" proposal as a basis for resumption of negotiations on the British film tax problem.

Sir Henry, you will be remembering, suggested that American companies could retain the earnings of British pictures here in addition to being allowed 25 per cent of the earnings of American pictures in Britain.

It is difficult to understand why London should be surprised that such picayune bait was ignored.

The American industry has made not one but several proposals looking to the negotiation of an agreement on the tax and embodying conditions which, by comparison with Sir Henry's suggestion, are most magnanimous. Among the American alternatives ignored or rejected by the British was at least one which would have retained in England a dollar amount comparable to that which the British tax would confiscate.

Britain pleads a dollar famine as justification for the prohibitive film tax. The American industry responds with proposals which would not drain Britain of more dollars than the confiscatory tax contemplates. And the proposals are spurned. Why?

The British industry may well ask London officialdom, even at this late hour, whether there is in its handling of the film tax an ulterior motive and, if so, what it might be.

Newsreel Parade

THE March of Dimes drive opening marks a highlight in all the reels. Other items include General Chennault and his Chinese bride, riots in Rome, and a rescue at sea. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 5—U. S. Senate probes market trading. Burma independence. U. S. submarines for Turkey. General Chennault takes Chinese bride. Silver skates. March of Dimes drive opens.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 239—Heroship burns at sea. General Chennault finds romance in China. Governor Stassen charges insiders made millions in [redacted]. Silver skates thriller. Boy victim [redacted]. President open March of Dimes drive.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 42—Silver skates. Anti-Royalist riots in Rome. Time for Dimes. General Chennault and bride. Field Marshall Montgomery mission to Ethiopia. Air Policy Commission reports.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 109—Forty-six saved from burning ship in Atlantic. President Truman opens March of Dimes drive. Submarines ready for transfer to Turkey. British airliner crash. General Chennault and Chinese bride. New sweater fashions. Wrestling in Madrid.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 45—Boy symbol of March of Dimes. "Sweater girls" outdo Florida sun. Governor Stassen's grain charges. General Chennault weds Chinese girl. Spinsters plan leap-year traps. Basketball. Daniel Webster commemoration.

New Audio Facilities Opened in Canada

TORONTO, Jan. 18.—Industry executives and trade press representatives from Canada and the United States were guests at a reception yesterday for the opening of Audio Pictures and Film Laboratory's new studio and laboratory here. Arthur Gottlieb is president.

The new unit consists of a streamlined, air-conditioned building with 20,000 square feet of floor space and has all departments for production and printing of negatives. The equipment includes 12 printing machines, four film processing machines and batteries of cameras and lights.

$149,155,000 Gross

(*Continued from page* 1)

1947, third quarter, $42,750,000; second quarter, $43,371,000; third quarter 1946, $45,600,000. Monogram: 1947, third quarter, $2,176,000; second quarter, $2,241,000; third quarter 1946, $1,770,000. Republic: 1947, third quarter, $7,524,000; second quarter, $7,569,000; third quarter 1946, $6,370,000.

Twentieth Century-Fox: 1947, third quarter, $44,689,000; second quarter, $46,587,000; third quarter 1946, $50,245,000. Universal: 1947, third quarter, $16,634,000; second quarter, $16,608,000; third quarter 1946, $12,083,000.

Gross income of Columbia's foreign subsidiaries reported amounted to $4,889,000 for the second quarter of 1947; $4,275,000 for the first quarter of 1947, and $4,069,000 for the second quarter of 1946. RKO reported earnings of subsidiaries not consolidated operating in foreign countries as $3,606,000 for the third quarter of 1947; $4,098,000 for the second quarter of 1947, and $3,915,000 for the third quarter of 1946.

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4 Firms Cleared of 'Conspiracy' in Suit

BUFFALO, Jan. 18.—Federal Judge Harold T. Burke on Friday dismissed charges against three of 12 motion picture companies involved in a $300,000 damage suit brought by Bordonaro Brothers of Olean, N. Y.

Charges against RKO and Universal were dismissed because they are parent corporations, respectively, of RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. and Universal Film Exchanges, Inc., and were not shown by the evidence to have had any part in the alleged conspiracy to prevent the Palace theatre, owned by the plaintiffs, from obtaining first-run fi[illegible] the court held.

Charges against Warner Bros. Pictures Distributing Corp. were dismissed on grounds that the evidence showed that at no time had the plaintiffs attempted to purchase Warner product.

Charges against Big U. Film Exchange, Inc., were dismissed earlier.

'Loop' Decree

(*Continued from page* 1)

monopolistic practices by distributors and several Loop theatres. The distributors now must answer the demand, and a date has not been set for the hearing.

The Jackson Park Theatre claimed that certain pictures had been withheld from the Chicago area after first runs in the United Artists and Chicago theatres in violation of the injunction against "creating dead or waiting time" between conclusion of the first-run and neighborhood showings.

Paramount, in addition, was charged with contempt for licensing the film "Unconquered" for more than the two-week limit placed on first-run Loop showings in the injunction. It is claimed that 20th Century-Fox and RKO Radio have established zones which keep the Jackson Park from freely bidding on first-run pictures after completion of the original showing.

Loew's and Warner Theatres also were claimed against as well as the local Balaban and Katz organization. Conspiracy to set admission prices was alleged in connection with the move-over showing of the film "Forever Amber."

Among individuals charged with contempt were Louis Phillips, assistant general counsel of Paramount, and Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th-Fox.

Smith-Mundt Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

by direct purchase of films or perhaps limited defrayment of out-of-pocket expenses.

A slightly different version of the bill has already passed the House, and the two versions now go to conference. Speedy agreement on the Senate bill is expected. Any Government aid to the industry will come via a section urging the State Department to use private agencies in the Overseas Information Program to the maximum extent practicable. The bill originally said, "insofar as is practicable," but this was strengthened by an amendment by Sen. Ball who contended that private agencies cost much less than Government - sponsored information programs.

Once the bill passes both houses the initiative will move to the State Department for working out with industry exactly how the Government can use and help the film companies.

Reviews

"To the Ends of the Earth"

(*Columbia*)

WITH a pronounced leaning toward the documentary in treatment, "To the Ends of the Earth" tells the story of an international opium ring and how Dick Powell, agent of the Narcotics Bureau of the U. S. Treasury Department, succeeds in smashing it.

The original story and screenplay, by Jay Richard Kennedy, who was associated with Sidney Buchman in the production, are a combination of fact and fiction. However the ingredients were mixed, the results make for an attention-holding, if lurid and fantastic, yarn of the growth of the illicit poppy with considerable explanation of how it is manufactured into opium and turned loose on the market.

The story starts in San Francisco and carries Powell to China, Egypt, Cuba and New York Harbor before the trail ends. Everywhere in his travels, he enlists the aid of law enforcement agencies in his relentless tracking down of the ring-leader, who proves to be an hitherto unsuspected Chinese girl presumably a victim of the Japanese and now in the sympathetic care of Signe Hasso. The fact is the guilty one actually is working for the Japanese High Command which seeks to further a blueprint of conquest by spreading the use of opium among susceptible nations, as has been reported often in the instance of China.

In the factual approach which the producers and the director, Robert Stevenson, have essayed, it well may be argued that fidelity to detail exceeds the requirements of the story and of the public interest. For example, carefully explained pictorially and in dialogue is the exact stage at which the poppy arrives at its fruition. With some glossings over, what are evidently the major steps in the processes of conversion from plant to actual drug are described and shown. One elaborate method, at least, of moving the finished product from factory to ultimate consumer is unfolded in minute detail. Practically all of this step-by-step procedure is unfurled with suspense so that, dramatically, interest is well maintained.

The subject, until now sparingly touched upon in Hollywood, traces its existence to a recent amendment of the Production Code whereby the original prohibition against the depiction of narcotics on the screen was revised to clear the way for this film. It is on record that this amendment has been sharply criticized in various quarters on the ground it has opened a facet of story material not in the best causes of the mass audience which motion pictures serve.

A large supporting cast, like the principals, delivers a professionally satisfactory job. In addition to playing the lead, Powell is on the off-screen narrative track almost uninterruptedly from beginning to end.

Running time, 109 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

RED KANN

"Kings of the Olympics, Part I"

(*Westport International Films, Inc.*)

ALL of the gruelling excitement of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin is revealed in this splendidly-photographed, 60-minute subject. More than 5,300 athletes from 51 nations competed in the sports festival and this pictorial record of the event was made by some 600 cameramen. With this year's Olympic Games coming up shortly, the subject, aside from its innate drama and appeal, has an added timeliness and interest.

Because of the large number of events, the footage has been edited into two films of approximately one hour each, with Part II to be released shortly. Part I centers chiefly about the track, field and swimming events with many well-remembered stars coming back into the spotlight as they crack world records. Narration is by Bill Slater. American distribution for the film is now being negotiated.

Running time, 60 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Swap Appeal Briefs

(*Continued from page* 1)

independents and in holding that interests of five to 95 per cent in independent theatres were illegal. The defendants took issue with the court's contention that joint ownerships were illegal per se.

The decision was protested for enjoining the exhibitor defendants from engaging in new competition. It was further held that the court was mistaken in directing that competitive bidding be adopted as the sole means of licensing pictures.

The RKO brief contended that the absolute prohibition of theatre acquisitions "restrains, rather than promotes, lawful competition and is inconsistent with the objectives of the Sherman Act." It held the court in error in preventing agreements with licensees on minimum admission prices, and in holding that it lacked power to continue the arbitration system established in the consent decree.

Loews' argued that "the District Court erred in decreeing that whenever any clearance provision is attacked as not legal under the provisions of this decree, the burden shall be upon the distributor to sustain the legality thereof."

Canada Tax Going

(*Continued from page* 1)

Province of Ontario could restore its 10 per cent amusement tax. A share of this tax would be "awarded" to municipalities for hospital and relief agency expenditures borne by cities and towns.

Dropping of the Federal war tax is expected at the end of the fiscal year, on March 31, when Abbott will probably be presenting his budget in the House of Commons. Theatremen look upon the development as a mixed blessing while conceding that Mayor Saunders has scored a victory in his crusade for a municipal share of amusement taxation.

Riley, Manufacturer, Backing del Giudice

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Filippo del Giudice's financial backer is disclosed to be Birmingham glass manufacturer William Grimshal Riley. Riley is a director of del Giudice's Pilgrim Pictures, and has guaranteed 30,000 pounds ($120,000).

Riley says he has no acquaintance with the industry, but was impressed with del Giudice's picture-making methods and also merits the producer's pictures as potentially powerful dollar-makers.

UA British Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

ple Hunt Stromberg and Edward Small, have scripts and stars ready and the plan can be put into operation as soon as UA's board of directors approves the arrangement. Kelly said he hopes the home office will finalize it within a month. Stromberg's "Return of the Native," with Hedy Lamarr starring, is likely to be the first picture to go into production under the deal, with a continuous flow of other productions to follow, he said.

Kelly closed releasing arrangements with Gaumont-British Circuit for the remaining UA product which was here prior to the imposition of the film tax. However, he was unable to close a deal with Odeon Circuit for release of future UA product, despite UA's being a large stockholder in Odeon and despite frequent talks here with J. Arthur Rank, who holds the controlling interest in Odeon.

Skouras to UK

(*Continued from page* 1)

will include discussions on the British *ad valorem* tax, and said Motion Picture Association of America president Eric A. Johnston "is the only man who has authority to conduct discussions on this matter."

LONDON, Jan. 18.—J. Arthur Rank's associate, John Davis, has been given complete charge of the reorganization and amalgamation of the Gaumont-British and Odeon circuits. Davis has refused to amend Odeon's booking practice notwithstanding a recent request for a change made by United Artists' executive vice-president Arthur W. Kelly.

Higher Film Costs

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing" independent producers by as much as 60 to 70 per cent of picture budgets. He held that making pictures in color can compensate immeasurably for lack of star values if the story is good. He said, too, that he regards those major companies "foolish" which discontinued production of "bread-and-butter" "B" pictures because studio overhead now must be absorbed by fewer films, causing a step-up in production costs for those companies.

Next on ARPI's schedule, Presnell disclosed, is "Sofia," a story of Balkan intrigue which will be filmed in Cinecolor at RKO Radio's Churubusco studios in Mexico City. Presnell's associate is John Reinhardt.

'Queen's' Film Passengers

LONDON, Jan. 18.—David Rose, Joseph Mankiewicz, David Niven and Mrs. Niven, Rex Harrison, Lilli Palmer and Arthur W. Kelly are among those who sailed for the U. S. today on the *S. S. Queen Elizabeth.*

Last year it was

This year it's "THE"



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HOLLYWOOD REVIEW

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"The Best Years"

BISHOP'S WIFE"

"A sharp bead on the next Oscar for sure. Cary Grant in the very finest of his many fine screen characterizations."

"Superbly treated entertainment. Surefire boxoffice. The good taste and artistic scope of the film is a tribute to the directorial guidance of Henry Koster."

"Royal entertainment expertly fashioned into boxoffice fare. In England, the Command Performance picture. On this side of the Atlantic, the Demand Performance film."

"In the best tradition of the screen's prime purpose. In 'The Bishop's Wife' exhibitors have a highly exploitable picture of which they may be proud."

"An outstanding entry in fine entertainment. One of the outstanding moneymakers of the year. Excellent. The screenplay of Robert Nathan's very popular novel was written by Robert Sherwood and Leonardo Bercovici, and to that credit must go the applause for much of the charm and story presentation."

"The seal of Samuel Goldwyn, without variance a warranty of merit. Perhaps there has never been anything to excel it. A happy idea blossoming into a happy picture."

"Builds up an overall pattern of beauty and significance. The net effect is a moving, substantial and constantly entertaining film."

Distributed by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.

IN SOLID



IN PHILLY

'Intrigue' Hefty in Philly

Philadelphia,
Film theatres are taking a
here along with show biz
in Philly as the pre-X-
hold. Surpris-

IN CHICAGO

Chi in High; 'Intrigue'-Wow

Chicago,
gross
soared here from last
ear and, with the help
Year's Eve perfor-



GEORGE RAFT

'INTRIGUE'

And in Atlanta, Nashville, Boston, Providence, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Columbus, Dayton, Cleveland, Canton, Akron, Toledo, Houston, Indianapolis, Evansville, Louisville, Kansas City, New Orleans, Harrisburg, Reading, Wilmington, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Memphis, Norfolk, Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Albany, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Portland

and wherever it plays soon to that Raft kind of business thru UA

Star Films presents
GEORGE RAFT
in
"INTRIGUE"
with JUNE HAVOC • HELENA CARTER
TOM TULLY • MARVIN MILLER • DAN SEYMOUR
Screenplay by Barry Trivers and George Slavin
Produced by SAM BISCHOFF
Directed by EDWIN L. MARIN

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 13 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1948 TEN CENTS

U.S. Companies In London Hit Price Advance

Added Remittances Are Barred Under CEA Plan

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 19. — American distributors here have reacted vigorously against a proposal that the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association seek the British government's consent to an admission price rise.

Conditions of the proposal are that there will be no entertainment tax embodied in the increase, and that no part of the increase, where American films are involved, shall be remitted to the U. S.

British exhibitors have been clamoring for an admission price increase because of increased film rentals and theatre operating costs. They claim that while they were able to bear such increased expenses during the wartime

(*Continued on page 4*)

CEA Weighs Fight on Tax

LONDON, Jan. 19.—An all-out exhibitor campaign to tell the British public through the medium of the nation's screens the extent to which exhibitors have been harmed by the consequences of the British *ad valorem* tax on American films is being planned here, according to a Cinematograph Exhibitors Association spokesman.

Many British exhibitors feel that "the time has passed" when British Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps' edicts must be accepted without question. More cautious CEA members, however, hold that the in-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Rep. Hagen Files for Admission Tax Slash

Washington, Jan. 19.—A bill calling for a cut in the Federal admission tax to the prewar 10 per cent rate was introduced in the House today by Representative Hagen, who would make the cut effective June 30, 1948.

UK Prepared to Put Freeze On Reissue Remittances

LONDON, Jan. 19.—The British government is said to have prepared plans to freeze remittances on American reissues and all other films imported prior to the imposition of the *ad valorem* duty last August. If and when an anticipated financial crisis arrives, the government's remittance freeze plans are expected to be put into operation at once.

April will see the end of all Anglo-American film dealings, is the view accepted generally here, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps has indicated officially that if emergency financial aid is not made available to England by then the nation will find itself in the throes of an economic catastrophe.

As pointed out in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 7, a financial crisis of the first magnitude will force Britain to adopt self-sufficiency methods.

ATA Files Brief On Auction Bids

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The American Theatres Association has filed its brief on competitive bidding in the U. S. Supreme Court as an intervenor in the Government's New York anti-trust suit against the industry.

In appealing from the decision of the New York district court ATA attacked the ruling establishing auction bidding as "an invalid exercise of the court's power" which, if enforced, will result in "irreparable injury to appellant intervenors and all other independent exhibitors."

The brief contends the decree failed to achieve its purpose because "it compels buyers in the market for films to submit to market regulations formulated by the court and enforced by the concerted action of sellers who

(*Continued on page 5*)

ACLU Brief Asks Theatre Separation

Monopolistic trends in the film industry were held to be a threat to freedom of the press, in a brief filed yesterday in U. S. Supreme Court by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Asserting that films, like radio, are part of the country's "press," and that freedom to read, see or hear are implied in freedom to publish or produce, the Union's brief supports the Attorney General's demand that the

(*Continued on page 5*)

Young 'Looking at' Both RKO and UA

A "group of private investors" associated with Robert R. Young, head of Pathe Industries, "has been looking at both RKO and United Artists with a view toward possible investment, but to date nothing has come of it," Young said in a statement issued here yesterday.

The statement added: "Whether agreement can be reached on price and other factors is a question for the future to decide."

Trade observers were of the opinion that Young's statement was prompted by the omission of mention of his interest in buying into RKO when Floyd Odlum of Atlas Corp. confirmed

(*Continued on page 4*)

Budgets Extended For Arbitration

Appropriations for the maintenance of the industry arbitration system from Feb. 1 until such time as the U. S. Supreme Court determines appeals in the Government's New York anti-trust suit against the industry will be continued by major distribution companies, it was learned here yesterday.

The fiscal year for the arbitration system ends on Feb. 1. In addition, terms of the three arbitration appeals board members expire on the same date, but will be renewed, also, until the Supreme Court has decided the appeals.

If the high court rules against continuance of the industry arbitration system it will be liquidated thereafter. Otherwise, present indications are ar-

(*Continued on page 4*)

I. A. Plans 4 Films At $7,000,000 Cost

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—Declaring its faith in the motion picture business, Independent Artists today announced a four-picture production schedule budgeted at $7,000,000 for 1948. In addition to the completed "The Velvet Touch," the schedule includes an untitled Dudley Nichols film, "Madly in Love," "New Model," with Rosalind Russell, the latter three at $1,500,000 each, and a $2,000,000 Technicolor subject to be selected.

Bill Would Add Music Tax to Film Rentals

Sponsored by Rep. Lewis; Allied Backing Is Seen

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—A bill to force Ascap to deal exclusively with film producers and to release exhibitors of all license or other royalty payments was introduced in the house today by Representative Lewis.

The bill, presumably backed by by Allied States, sponsor of a similar one a number of years ago, takes on added importance from the fact that Lewis is chairman of the House Judiciary sub-committee on Patents and Copyrights, which will have to pass on the measure.

Representative Celler, ranking Democrat on the Judiciary committee, has disclosed plans to introduce legis-

(*Continued on page 4*)

N. Y. Grosses Satisfactory

Business at New York's first-run downtown theatres ranges from moderate to good this week, with "The Paradine Case," at Radio City Music Hall, and "An Ideal Husband," at the Roxy, leading the field. The former, plus a stage show, grossed $86,000 Friday through Sunday, looks like $135,000 in a second week. "Husband," with songstress Ilona Massey on stage, rang up $75,000 Wednesday through Sunday, and the first week is expected to bring in $90,000.

Four new pictures will bow in this

(*Continued on page 4*)

Jackson Park Case Hearing Thursday

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—Attorneys for a number of officers, directors and agents of various companies are scheduled to appear in Federal Judge Michael Igoe's court here on Thursday in an action to show cause why they should not be cited in contempt for alleged violations of the Jackson Park Theatre decree.

The citations were sought last Friday against more than a dozen corporations and individuals by Jackson Park attorneys.

Personal Mention

ERNEST EMERLING and JOHN MURPHY, Loew Theatre executives, returned to New York yesterday from Norfolk, Richmond and Washington.

•

A. W. SCHWALBERG, Eagle-Lion general sales manager; MAX E. YOUNGSTEIN, advertising-publicity director; HAROLD S. DUNN, assistant general sales manager, and FRANK SOULE, head of branch operations, have returned to New York from Dallas.

•

GENE ARNEEL of the MOTION PICTURE DAILY editorial staff returned to his home in Brooklyn yesterday from Kings County Hospital to complete recuperation from a leg fracture. ARNEEL will observe a birthday today.

•

DAVID I. GOLDSTEIN, son of Springfield, Mass., exhibitor NATHAN E. GOLDSTEIN, and RITTA VOROBEITCHIK of Belgium were married recently in Brussels.

•

M. B. HORWITZ, general manager of the Washington circuit, Cleveland, and MRS. HORWITZ are in New York to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

•

NATHAN HALPERN, assistant to Columbia Broadcasting president FRANK STANTON, is en route to Hollywood from here.

•

MILTON KRAMER, Selznick Releasing Organization board chairman, left here for London by plane over the weekend.

•

ED HINCHY, head of the Warner playdate department, will be in Washington today from New York.

•

WILLIAM B. LEVY, Walt Disney Prod. sales chief, is en route to the Coast from New York.

•

SILAS F. SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will go to the Coast from New York shortly.

$2,262,147 Record Cinecolor Gross

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—Cinecolor Corp. discloses that the company set a new sales record of $2,262,147 for the year of Oct. 1, 1946, to Sept. 27, 1947.

Net profit for the period amounted to $305,780. After dividend payments, sales for the year showed a 265 per cent increase over sales for the previous year, which totalled $850,949.

Due to the increased volume of busines, Cinecolor was able to reduce the price on release printing by one-half cent per foot. The company also absorbed an 11.17 per cent cost of living wage increase last year.

William T. Crespinel, Cinecolor president, points out that Cinecolor's color process is now well established.

May Dissolve AMPA At Meeting Friday

Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, 32-year-old industry organization composed principally of publicity, advertising and trade press personnel of the East, is headed for dissolution.

Officers and members will meet at Headquarters Restaurant here on Friday to terminate AMPA's welfare activities in view of the establishment of the Motion Picture Foundation, and to decide whether AMPA should continue as a purely social organization.

Phil Williams, vice-president, submitted his resignation yesterday, effective Feb. 1. Arnold Stoltz, president, and Max Stein, treasurer, are slated to resign Friday, it is understood. If it is decided that AMPA shall continue as a social club, new officers will be nominated on Friday.

AMPA was organized in New York in 1916. The late Arthur James, advertising-publicity director of the old Metro Pictures, was its first president, serving two terms. The organization's first social function was a "farewell" luncheon for Terry Ramsaye who, in that year as advertising-publicity head of the old Mutual Film Corp., transferred his office from New York to Chicago. Ramsaye is editor of *Motion Picture Herald*.

Skouras Flies to UK Today to See Rank

Due to a last minute change in plans, Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, postponed his departure for England from Saturday and will leave here by plane tonight instead. Purpose of his trip is to discuss with J. Arthur Rank the proposed merger of the Gaumont-British and Odeon circuits. Twentieth-Fox has a substantial interest in Metropolis and Bradford Trust, which controls G-B.

Murray Silverstone, president of 20th-Fox International, and Otto Koegel, general counsel, left here aboard the *Queen Mary* on Saturday.

7 "Paradine" Coast Runs at Upped Rates

HOLLYWOOD, Jan 19. — David O. Selznick's "The Paradine Case" will be playing seven runs at advanced admissions in this territory on Wednesday, when the picture, which already is playing at the Bruin and Vogue here, is scheduled to open at the Fifth Avenue, Inglewood; Valley, North Hollywood; Long Beach, Long Beach; Tower, Pasadena; Rialto, Los Angeles.

Sir Alfred to Sir Alex

LONDON, Jan. 19.—Sir Alfred Duff Cooper, lately Britain's Ambassador to France, has become chairman of a French production company which is being formed by Sir Alexander Korda's London Films.

Services for Walt Bennin

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 19.—Final rites for Walter Bennin, 43, M-G-M office manager here, were held yesterday. He died Jan. 15 of a heart attack.

Reade Wins Appeal in PactSuitAgainstRKO

The 1942 contract between Long Park, Inc., one of Walter Reade's theatre companies, and RKO Service Corp. has been declared "illegal, void and unenforceable" by the New York Circuit Court of Appeals in Albany. The appeal, brought by the Reade affiliate, which was awarded all legal fees, was from a decision rendered last July by the Appellate Division. Involved are 12 houses in Trenton and New Brunswick, N. J., of which Reade is part owner.

It was said by the Reade office here yesterday that while the decision would affect the management of the theatres immediately, it would not in any way alter the holdings of either Reade or RKO.

575 Theatres Are in St. Louis Territory

There are 575 theatres with a seating capacity of 336,215 in operation in the St. Louis territory, according to a new theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of America is releasing today.

The 22nd in a series of 31 directories, the St. Louis directory reveals that the territory's three largest cities: St. Louis, East St. Louis and Springfield, have a total of 112 theatres with a capacity of 109,893. St. Louis alone has 94, with a capacity of 93,588, or an average of 996 seats per house.

In the St. Louis area, 244 theatres are located in 236 towns with a population of 2,500 and under. They account for a total capacity of 79,030, or an average of 324 seats per theatre.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK - Ann TODD - Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN - Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

starring RONALD REAGAN ELEANOR PARKER EVE ARDEN WAYNE MORRIS
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE
WARNER THEA
Opens 10:30am • LATE MIDNIGHT FILM • B'way at 51st

The THEATRE GUILD presents the RKO RADIO PICTURE
"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA"
TWICE DAILY 2:30 and 8:30 PM
3 PERFORMANCES SUNDAY at 2:00, 5:15 and 8:30 PM
RESERVED SEATS ONLY
GOLDEN THEATRE 45th St. W. of B'way

OPENS 9:15 A.M. • B'WAY AT 47th
LATE STAGE AND SCREEN SHOW 10:15 P.M.
WARNERS STRAND
DENNIS MORGAN in "MY WILD IRISH ROSE" COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
IN PERSON THE INK SPOTS EXTRA! HERBIE FIELDS AND HIS ORCHESTRA

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA • DOLORES DEL RIO • PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

WALT DISNEY'S Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
JOHN WAYNE • LARAINE DAY in TYCOON
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

IT'S GOT THAT ACADEMY AWARD LOOK!
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT • LORETTA YOUNG • DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

BOB HOPE
SIGNE HASSO
WM. BENDIX
in "WHERE THERE'S LIFE" A Paramount Picture
in Person STAN KENTON And His Orchestra JUNE CHRISTY Extra VIC DAMONE
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

CAPTAIN from CASTILE
TECHNICOLOR
TYRONE POWER
20th CENTURY-FOX
Doors Open 8:30 A.M.
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

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Also

THRILL YOUR AUDIENCES

WITH THIS *DIFFERENT* MYSTERY!

COLUMBIA PICTURES presents

Franchot TONE · Janet BLAIR

in

I LOVE TROUBLE



with

JANIS CARTER

ADELE JERGENS · GLENDA FARRELL

STEVEN GERAY · TOM POWERS

An S. SYLVAN SIMON Production • Screenplay by Roy Huggins From his novel, "The Double Take" • Produced and directed by S. SYLVAN SIMON

Smith-Mundt Bill Sent to President

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The House today sent to the White House the Smith-Mundt Bill authorizing the State Department's overseas information program. Motion picture officials hope for some slight aid in their foreign distribution problems under the bill, although the senate dropped plans to include authority for the State Department to aid producers get frozen funds out of Europe.

The Senate passed the Bill Friday. Approval by President Truman is considered certain, and the initiative for implementing the program now passes to the State Department.

Rep. Mundt said he plans a conference with Under-Secretary of State Lovett in the "next week or 10 days" to work out concrete ways to aid private communications agencies under the bill. He said the film and other industries had been requested to furnish complete facts and figures on the foreign exchange problem by then.

UK Price Rise

(*Continued from page* 1)

box-office boom, it is virtually impossible for them to do so now that a recession has set in along with the American film embargo.

Following a CEA approach to the British Treasury on the matter, the latter suggested that the CEA submit written proposals so that officials will be able properly to discuss the matter with excise officers. CEA is drafting a memorandum and influential British exhibitors are strongly advocating the increase and the conditions proposed. The increases proposed are calculated to produce for exhibitors an additional 300,000 pounds ($1,200,000) weekly.

American companies say they will protest the proposed increases as a further instance of discriminatory action against their trading.

CEA Tax Program

(*Continued from page* 1)

dustry here should keep clear of politics in its own interest, but there is a growing feeling in the organization that ruthless action is now demanded whether or not the government says such action is contrary to the philosophy of national unity.

The CEA spokesman said that there is a strong feeling in the organization that Sir Stafford "let the CEA down" in allowing CEA general secretary W. R. Fuller to journey to America late last year only to refuse to discuss, after his return, proposed alternatives to the *ad valorem* tax.

When the film quota bill comes up for its second reading in the House of Commons on Wednesday a forceful CEA lobby will be on hand to endeavor to persuade members of Parliament that discussion of the bill is redundant and unnecessary in view of the American embargo.

Lumbard Rejoins Firm

J. Edward Lumbard, an interim appointee of Governor Dewey's as Justice of the New York Supreme Court, has completed his term and has rejoined the law firm of Donovan, Leisure, Newton, Lumbard and Irvine here. The firm is counsel to RKO. Roy W. McDonald has been made a member of the same law firm.

News Briefs

THE Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association will hold its annual meeting to elect officers on Wednesday in that city. Buffet luncheon will precede the election. Ernest Schwartz has been president for the past 14 years. During the past year he also assumed the duties of secretary, left vacant by the death of George W. Erdmann.

Ferguson to Hold Series of Five M-G-M Field Sales Meets

William R. Ferguson, exploitation head for M-G-M, is holding a series of five meetings with field sales executives and promotion men under his supervision. Each meeting will last two days.

First two meetings will be held today and tomorrow at the Netherlands Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, for the Central division. Second session will be held at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, Jan. 22-23 for the Midwest, after which Ferguson will return to New York and later will set up the remaining three sessions.

Supreme Court Asked to Rule on Un-American Activities Group

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The Supreme Court was asked today to rule on the constitutionality of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the scope of its investigations and its use of contempt citations.

The action was asked by Leon Josephson, who is appealing his conviction for contempt in refusing to testify early last year in the committee's investigation of Gerhardt Eisler. The court could rule on the appeal without touching on the constitutionality of the committee.

Ackland and Taub Form Unit To Produce Films and Plays

Rodney Ackland, playwright, and William L. Taub have organized a firm to produce for the theatre and screen. Their first stage presentation will be Mr. Ackland's play, "Cupid and Mars," tested last October in London. To be converted into a film is Ackland's adaptation of "Crime and Punishment," now running on Broadway. Efforts are being made to obtain James Mason for the lead.

Selznick Heads Freedom Train Committee in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19.—David O. Selznick has been appointed chairman of the local Freedom Train Committee by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. This is the train which carries the original documents of American freedom and liberties and has appeared in all major Eastern cities. It will be in Los Angeles Feb. 23-25.

Writer Sues 20th-Fox

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19.—Writer Lawrence P. Buchman has filed a Superior Court suit against 20th Century-Fox alleging that use of the title "Kiss of Death" by 20th-Fox destroyed the value of his rights to the same title used previously for a published novel. He is seeking $125,000 damages.

Hodge in New BIS Post

British Information Services, here, has appointed Thomas Hodge director of the films and publications division.

Allied Hits Ascap 'Per-Piece' Rates

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. — Charges that the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers is violating the Federal consent decree under which it operates by virtue of excessive rates charged for per-piece licensing and by failure to list musical compositions in motion pictures, have been filed with the U. S. Department of Justice by Allied States.

In an effort to substantiate its charges, Allied says it has collected pertinent information in various parts of the country and has submitted it to the Attorney-General.

As previously reported, Ascap is now preparing a reduced rate schedule for per-piece licenses.

Music Tax Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

lation to curb Ascap in the near future. He was out of town today and could not be reached for comment on the Lewis measure.

The Lewis bill provides that "Disposition by the owner or distributor of a copyrighted motion picture of the right to exhibit such film for profit shall include the right to reproduce and publicly perform any and all copyrighted material contained in the film, including copyrighted music recorded thereon or on discs, wire or other devices accompanying and synchronized with such film, and no owner or distributor of any such copyrighted film shall license the public exhibition thereof for profit unless at the time of such license he also possesses the authority to license, and does so license, the reproduction of all copyrighted dialogue, sound effects and music recorded on or synchronized with such film."

Young 'Looking'

(*Continued from page* 1)

last week that discussions had been held with Howard Hughes concerning purchase by the latter of RKO securities held by Atlas.

Young's interest in a U. A. deal has been reported frequently. He is understood to have been acting in association with Serge Semenenko, executive vice-president of the First National Bank of Boston, with the ultimate intention of merging Eagle-Lion Films, a wholly-owned Pathe Industries subsidiary, with U. A. Presumably, the same plan would be involved in any deal which he might make for control of RKO.

Eagle-Lion Board of Directors Meets on Product and Policy

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—The board of Eagle-Lion Studios has held its first meeting of 1948, and among subjects on the agenda were the consideration of the company's product for the year, over-all policies of the studio, the 1948 sales program and the distribution of Eagle-Lion product in foreign countries, especially in Latin America, where 30 new exchanges are being established.

Members of the board in attendance were: Arthur B. Krim, chairman of the board and president of the company; Bryan Foy, vice-president in charge of production; Kenneth M. Young, Robert S. Benjamin, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Walter Wanger.

Solons Hear Mullen Hit AFM Film Bans

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Television broadcasters must be able to make arrangements whereby motion pictures of musical performances can be used for television, Frank E. Mullen, executive vice-president of National Broadcasting, told the House Labor Committee today. The committee is holding public hearings on restrict[ive] practices used by the American F[ed]eration of Musicians.

Declaring that television was "unsurpassed as a medium for entertainment and education," Mullen listed three types of AFM restrictions in the television field: the ban on members performing in "live" television shows; preventing the use of musicians in making films for television, and prohibitions on duplicating for television any broadcasting program containing instrumental music.

Mullen outlined for the committee AFM contracts with Hollywood studios prohibiting the selling or leasing of sound tracks or films containing AFM performances.

The NBC executive emphasized that broadcasters want to reach equitable terms with AFM president James C. Petrillo for long-term agreements on employment conditions in all fields of broadcasting.

The personal appearance of Petrillo at the hearing, originally scheduled for Wednesday, has been postponed to Thursday, the committee said.

N. Y. Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

week: "I Walk Alone" will replace "Where There's Life" at the Paramount on Wednesday; on Thursday, "If Winter Comes" will follow "The High Wall" at the Capitol; "T-Men" will succeed "The Senator Was Indiscreet" at the Criterion; "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" will replace "My Wild Irish Rose" at the Strand on Friday.

Departing pictures, all terminating with fourth weeks, are expected to gross as follows in their final stanzas; "Where There's Life," $61,000; "High Wall," $50,000; "Senator," $20,000; "Irish Rose," $39,000. Andy Russell will replace Vic Damone on the Paramount stage, and Sammy Kaye's band will follow Tommy Dorsey's at the Capitol.

At other locations business is expected to shape up as follows: "Captain from Castile," Rivoli, fourth week, $30,000; "Secret Beyond the Door," Winter Garden, first week, $24,000; "Gentleman's Agreement," Mayfair, 10th week, $37,000; "Body and Soul," Globe, 11th week, $19,000; "The Bishop's Wife," Astor, sixth week, $43,000; "The Fugitive," Victoria, fourth week, $21,000; "Voice of the Turtle," Warner, fourth week, $14,000; "Tycoon," Palace, fourth week, $17,500; "Women in the Night," Gotham, second week, $6,500; "I Know Where I'm Going," Sutton, 22nd week, $4,600.

Arbitration Budgets

(*Continued from page* 1)

rangements would be made for its continuance. The system has been budgeted at $300,000 annually, exclusive of salaries of appeals board members. Arrangements also have been made for extension of leases on office quarters for local arbitration tribunals, pending the Supreme Court decision.

N. Y. Critics Confer '47 Film Citations

Appearing on behalf of Darryl F. Zanuck, John Garfield last night accepted the New York Film Critics' award voted to "Gentleman's Agreement" as the best film of 1947. Elia Kazan, director of "Gentleman's Agreement" and "Boomerang," was also on hand at a dinner held at Leone's, here, to receive the critics' citation for his work on both 20th Century-Fox pictures. Other awards went to William Powell as best actor and Deborah Kerr as best actress and "To Live in Peace" as the best foreign film. Otis L. Guernsey, chairman of the Film Critics' council and film reviewer for the *New York Herald Tribune,* presided.

Martel Elected Head Of Eastern SDG

Gene Martel, former treasurer of the Screen Directors Guild in New York and Eastern test director for Paramount, has been elected president, succeeding Bud Pollard who was named honorary president.

Other officers elected at the SDG's third annual convention here over the weekend were: Willard Van Dyke, first vice-president; Leslie Roush, second vice-president; Jack Glenn, recording secretary; Sidney Kaufman, corresponding secretary; Emerson Yorke, treasurer. In addition to the guild officers, the board of directors includes Pollard, Al Altman, Boris Kaplan, Leo Seltzer and Marvin Rothenberg.

Legion Classifies 7; Condemns 'Volpone'

"Volpone," Siritzky International's French import currently showing at the distributors' Ambassador Theatre here, has been given a Class C (Condemned rating) by the National Legion of Decency.

Of six other films reviewed, two were placed in Class A-I: Republic's "Bandits of Dark Canyon" and "The Gay Ranchero." Rated A-II were Eagle-Lion's "Heading for Heaven" and "The Smugglers." Warners' "Always Together," and M-G-M's "If Winter Comes" were placed in Class B.

New Dezel Building

A film center to house Albert Dezel Productions, in Indianapolis, to contain a screening room which will double as an art theatre, is announced by Albert Dezel, president of Dezel Productions. Other independent exchanges and theatre supply firms will lease space in the new building.

Hunsaker Leaves SRO

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19. — Harry Hunsaker, manager for Selznick Releasing Organization, here, will leave that post at the end of the month to run the Hunsaker Motor Co. in Chico, which he has purchased.

ENTIRE BUILDING for Lease. 20,000 sq. ft. Modern former 1st Natl. Bank Bldg. at heavy traffic junction of Mamaroneck Ave. & Boston Post Road, in Mamaroneck. 3-story & full terrazzo basement. 2 elevators. Owner, L. N. Rosenbaum & Son, 565 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 17.

Review

"My Girl Tisa"

(*United States Pictures-Warner*)

DARING to venture into story realms so infrequently entered as to set aside this effort as fresh and new, producer Milton Sperling comes up with a fitting reward in "My Girl Tisa." He has a heart-warming attraction, generously endowed with laughs and sentiment and performed by one of the best casts to cross the path of these optics in quite a time.

The East Side of New York is the place and 1905 the year; it was different 42 years ago, and the difference had its points. Lilli Palmer, Hungarian immigrant, works in Akim Tamiroff's tie factory and wherever else she can after hours to save enough money to bring her father to the bright, new land of her adoption. Sam Wanamaker is the neighborhood braggart but basically a good guy, dreaming big dreams about law and politics and started along the road of opportunity by the time the film ends. Stella Adler runs the boarding house where most of the principals live. Hugo Haas is the shady travel agent who victimizes greenhorns and almost succeeds in having Miss Palmer deported on trumped-up immorality charges. But Wanamaker breaks up a dockside ceremony to meet an incoming crown prince and manages to inject President (Teddy) Roosevelt into the situation with happy-ending consequences.

"My Girl Tisa," based on a play by Lucille S. Prumbs and Sara B. Smith, and worked into an adept and very knowing script by Allen Boretz, is a recounting of small adventures and small crises in the lives of this human and likable group of little people. To them these adventures and crises loom large, of course. It is to the wide credit of those identified with this film, never excepting the comprehending direction of Elliott Nugent, that the serious and humorous shadings are so honestly and captivatingly caught. What transpires is sincere and believable although the final piece of business which brings in the President admittedly is very tall indeed.

Miss Palmer is excellent. Wanamaker, attracted to Hollywood—this is his first picture—for his work with Ingrid Bergman in the stage play, "Joan of Lorraine," makes a favorable first impression; his performance indicates acting authority. Tamiroff as the grudgingly soft-hearted tie manufacturer, steals most of his scenes. Miss Adler practically does likewise with hers and so, too, Hugo Haas with his. The rest of the supporting players are so competent and so much an integral part of the whole proceedings that it becomes a dutiful and pleasurable obligation to name them: Sidney Blackmer, John Qualen, Alan Hale, Fritz Feld, Benny Baker, Gale Robbins, Tom Dillon, Sumner Getchell, Sid Tomack and John Banner.

"My Girl Tisa" tells a story of America, the melting pot, with understanding and appreciation. It is American all the way and a contribution, in terms of first-class entertainment, to the democratic processes.

Running time, 95 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 7.

RED KANN

3 More Legislatures Open, Nine Meeting

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Three more state legislatures have convened, bringing the current total in session to nine, according to Jack Bryson, legislative assistant to Eric Johnston, head of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Only two more are scheduled to hold sessions this year, Bryson said; they are California, which will open on March 1, and Louisiana, due to start May 10. Those which are newly opened are Virginia, South Carolina and New Jersey. Already in session are Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Mississippi, New York and Missouri. So far no adverse legislation is expected in any.

Audio of Canda Will Produce Two a Year

TORONTO, Jan. 19.—Audio Pictures, Ltd., whose new studios were opened here on Saturday, will launch its production program with two features yearly, using Hollywood stars, the company's own technicians and Canadian story background. Arthur Gottlieb is president of Audio; Hans Tiesler is vice-president in charge of production.

Goldstein Sues for Pay

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Jan. 19.—Suit for $75,000 has been entered in Superior Court by Nathan E. Goldstein against Wesmas Candy Corp., subsidiary of Western Massachusetts Theatres, seeking to recover $52,200 allegedly owed him for services as president, general manager and executive supervisor from March, 1941, to March, 1946. Goldstein, former president of Western Massachusetts Theatres, is now owner of the Arcade Theatre.

A C L U Brief

(*Continued from page* 1)

producers be forced to give up their alleged monopoly of what the public can see.

The brief was signed by Harold J. Sherman and H. William Fitelson, both of the New York bar, as counsel for the ACLU, appearing as a friend of the court. Also signing were Wendell Berge, former Assistant Attorney General in charge of the anti-trust division, who initiated the proceedings against the producers; James Lawrence Fly, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission; Prof. George H. Dession of the Yale School of Law and formerly on the legal staff of the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice, and C. Dickerman Williams of the New York bar.

ATA Files Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

control the major part of the supply," taking away from independent exhibitors "their former right to enjoin such concerted action on the part of the defendants." It was further argued that the statutory court's decision deprives the independents of "their former right to recover damages under the anti-trust laws on a showing that the operation of the plan has caused them injury" and authorizes and compels major distributors "to break off established relationships with independents which have no taint of illegality whatever."



Leo Brecher
president, 58th Street Plaza Theatre, Inc. New York, says:

"WE CONSIDER ALTEC SERVICE AS REAL FRIENDS OF SHOW BUSINESS"

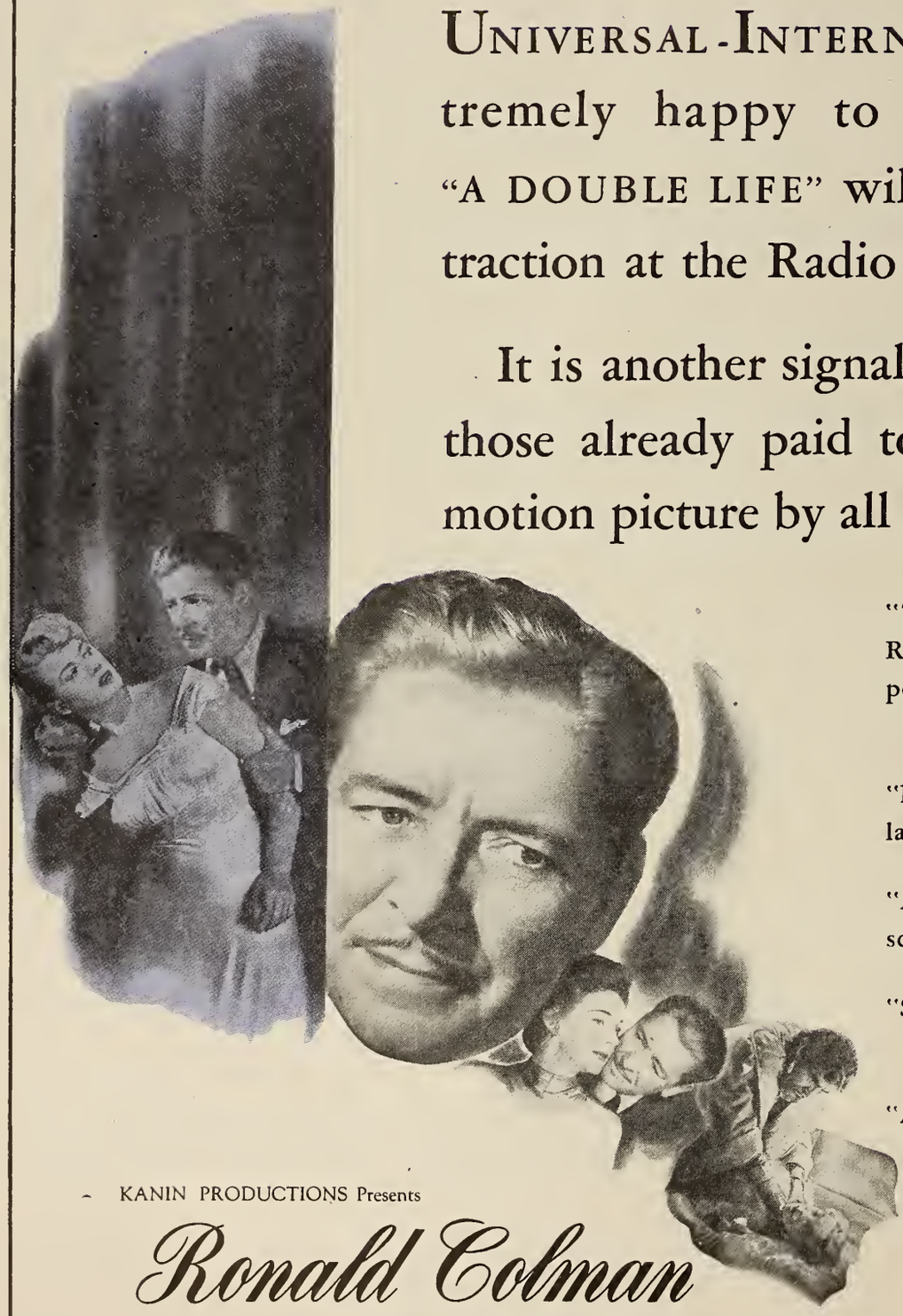
"The motion picture industry today has got to meet serious challenges to its hold on its customers. You've got to meet these challenges by improving your entertainment every way you can. Getting the most out of the sound is certainly a "must" today. The Altec people, over the years, have proved they are working for the best interests of the theatres."

Altec Service, known for its service "over and above the contract" is a vital ingredient of your theatre's ability to meet successfully the competition of other forms of entertainment. An Altec Service contract is the soundest long term investment an exhibitor can make today.

ALTEC SERVICE CORPORATION
250 *West 57th Street*
New York 19, *N. Y.*

THE SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Another Signal Honor for a Very Wonderful Motion Picture



UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL is extremely happy to announce that "A DOUBLE LIFE" will be the next attraction at the Radio City Music Hall.

It is another signal honor to add to those already paid to this wonderful motion picture by all who have seen it.

"The greatest performance in Ronald Colman's long career...a powerful, fascinating attraction." —*Motion Picture Daily*

"Designed to hit wide and popular appeal." —*The Exhibitor*

"A polished package of class screen entertainment." —*Variety*

"Should win loud acclaim." —*Box Office*

"Another high spot of the season." —*The Film Daily*

KANIN PRODUCTIONS Presents

Ronald Colman

giving NEW greatness to the Screen in

"A DOUBLE LIFE"

with

SIGNE HASSO · EDMOND O'BRIEN

SHELLEY WINTERS · RAY COLLINS · PHILIP LOEB

Written by RUTH GORDON *and* GARSON KANIN

Directed by GEORGE CUKOR · *Produced by* MICHAEL KANIN

A Universal-International Release



Universal International

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 14 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1948 TEN CENTS

MR. ERIC JOHNSTON,
MOTION PICTURE ASSOC. OF AMERICA,
28 WEST 44TH ST., 21ST FL
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Thomas Heads New Company; 22 in 1st Year

Equity Pictures Formed With Welsch, Schwarz

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 20. — Another independent producing company has entered the field here with the announcement by Harry H. Thomas, veteran film executive, of the formation of Equity Pictures, Inc.



Harry Thomas

The company, which will be headed by Thomas as president, and Howard Welsch, former executive producer at Universal Studios, as vice-president, plans to turn out 22 pictures during its first year, including six in color. The entire program will be released through Eagle-Lion Films.

Other officers of the company are Jack Schwarz, independent producer

(*Continued on page* 4)

MPAA Plans Parley On Foreign Impasse

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Exhaustive top-level discussions of the foreign situation will be on the agenda of a two-day meeting which Motion Picture Association of America president Eric A. Johnston is endeavoring to convoke here for some time next week. Company presidents and, possibly, foreign managers, have been sent invitations.

While MPAA officials declined any more details of the agenda than that

(*Continued on page* 4)

Name 22 to Serve 'Brotherhood Week'

Some 22 acceptances from exhibitor leaders who will act as state chairmen have been received for "American Brotherhood Week," sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Theatre leaders and the territories

(*Continued on page* 4)

Two Chicago Trust Suits Are Filed

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Two Northwestside theatres today sought $900,000 in treble damages against 16 distributors and others in suits filed here in U. S. District Court. Both charged they were damaged by booking and pricing practices outlawed recently by the U. S. Supreme Court in the legal action brought by the Jackson Park Theatre.

The new suits were filed for Saul Meltzer, owner of the Rivoli and the Rockne theatres. He seeks $600,000 in the Rivoli case and $300,000 for the Rockne.

Meltzer charged the defendant companies gave precedence to films in theatres owned or controlled by them and allowed neighborhood houses to exhibit outstanding motion pictures only after lengthy, profitable Loop runs.

U.S. Asks 'Diversity' Of Films in Appeal

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Divestiture of theatres and a 10-year ban on cross-licensing will make for greater independent film production and more exhibition outlets willing and able to show pictures with different outlooks not now available to the public at large, the Department of Justice argues in its appeal brief filed last week with the Supreme Court in the industry anti-trust case.

Contents of films, the Government says, must necessarily be conditioned by the prejudices and moral attitudes of those controlling the channels of distribution, regardless of who pro-

(*Continued on page* 4)

M-G-M Drawing Up New Chicago Plan

A new distribution formula to apply to the Chicago general releasing area is being devised by M-G-M. It is understood the plan will provide for flexible clearance and competitive negotiation for runs.

Formulation of the new plan was undertaken to meet complications resulting from the recent Chicago Federal Court ruling in the Jackson Park trust action.

20th-Fox Victor In Coast Salinas Case

Ruling that only parties to the decree in the industry anti-trust suit can bring court actions on alleged violations of the decree, Federal Judge John Bright upheld in U. S. District Court here yesterday a motion by 20th Century-Fox and National Theatres that the New Salinas Theatre Corp. of California is not qualified to bring proceedings against the decree companies.

New Salinas last fall filed action against the company defendants, charging that National's construction of a theatre in Watsonville, Cal., constituted expansion and therefore was in violation of the decree. National and 20th-Fox claimed building of the theatre was not expansion but was rather a replacement of another house which they had owned.

The court here pointed out yesterday that the petitioner had not made application to intervene in the anti-

(*Continued on page* 4)

"The Naked City"

[*Hellinger-U-I*] — A Real One About New York

THE late Mark Hellinger conjured up an adventure drama of unforgettable impact. It is a picture that soars into the highest brackets of box-office material. Bearing the mark of craftsmanship in its every detail and setting, the picture, photographed in New York, chronicles one lurid tale of murder in a teeming city of 8,000,000. Jules Dassin has done an able job of direction, as testified by the suspense which builds up to a booming crescendo. The splendidly-performing cast is headed by the lovable old rogue, Barry Fitzgerald, and includes Howard Duff, Dorothy Hart and Don Taylor. Exhibitors need not be concerned about any lack of abundant marquee names, for this is one picture that will linger in memory and be talked about and that is a showman's finest exploitation angle.

The picture opens in the early morning hours as the camera roams casually, picking up landmarks of the metropolis. As part of varied and multitudinous things happening within the scope of 24 hours, is a murder. Now the story begins in earnest and one of the screen's most thrilling manhunts results. As homicide police department lieutenant, Fitzgerald

(*Continued on page* 4)

Admission Tax 'Evils' Charted For Congress

Survey by TOA Will Be Ready in 3 Weeks

The House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will receive in about three weeks from the Theatre Owners of America "documented facts" on the extent to which the continuing 20 per cent Federal admission tax has been reducing theatre attendance in every section of the country. TOA is seeking a cutback to the 10 per cent pre-war levy.

Robert W. Coyne, TOA executive director, said here yesterday that TOA member units in every state have been requested to make comprehensive surveys of their respective areas on the impact of taxes on theatre attendance, and to supply TOA headquarters here with details. TOA general counsel Herman Levy in Washington will present the document to Congress, Coyne said.

TOA has backed the Dingel Bill which provides, in part, for a 10 per cent reduction in the present 20 per

(*Continued on page* 4)

Another House Bill Calls for Tax Cut

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—A bill cutting the admission tax to the pre-war 10 per cent rate was introduced in the House today by Rep. Gordon McDonough of California. This is the second such bill in two days. Rep. Harold Hagen of Minnesota introduced a similar one yesterday.

Action on either bill is considered unlikely, however, with leaders of both parties concentrating on cutting income taxes.

Feb. Hearings Seen On Anti-Ascap Bill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Rep. Earl R. Lewis (R., Ohio), who yesterday introduced a bill in Congress to curb the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, said here today he would hold hearings on the bill "possibly next month."

Lewis, who is chairman of the House Judiciary sub-committee on

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Cramblet Named UA Midwest Manager

Ralph Cramblet, United Artists branch manager in Minneapolis, has been appointed Midwestern district manager by J. J. Unger, general sales manager.

Cramblet will operate out of Chicago and will supervise the territory embracing Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis.

Cramblet started with UA 18 years ago as office manager in Chicago. After being promoted to salesman, he was transferred from Chicago to Minneapolis. He was named branch manager there in 1934.

House Labor Group to Quiz Petrillo Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, takes the stand at 10 A.M. tomorrow before a House Labor Committee which has been holding hearings for the last week on allegedly restrictive practices employed by his union.

The committee already has heard representatives of standard, FM, and television broadcasting, the chief networks, record manufacturers and transcription companies.

Petrillo Sees Agreement with Networks and AFM by Jan. 31

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, said here at the weekend, on resuming union contract negotiations with the four major networks, that he felt an agreement could be reached before expiration of the contract on Jan. 31.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address: "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo J. Sullivan, Vice-President and Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Yucca-Vine Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 120 South La Salle Street, Editorial and Advertising. Urben Farley, Advertising Representative. Washington, J. A. Otten, 2525 Ontario Road, N. W.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1 Hope Burnup, Manager, Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York. N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.



"MAY WE LET DOWN OUR HAIR AND TALK FRANKLY!"

M-G-M has more current pictures in the box-office headlines than any other company. *For instance:*



GREEN DOLPHIN STREET spectacular audience hit is hold-over champ.
(Lana Turner, Van Heflin, Donna Reed, Richard Hart)

CASS TIMBERLANE positively sensational in all early dates. For instance, it's M-G-M's 5-year high in Tulsa!
(Spencer Tracy, Lana Turner, Zachary Scott)

GOOD NEWS spreads Technicolor joy across the nation. Good news everywhere!
(June Allyson, Peter Lawford)



HIGH WALL is hair-raising! Audiences thrilled at Capitol, N. Y. World Premiere and all first bookings.
(Robert Taylor, Audrey Totter, Herbert Marshall)

KILLER McCOY is a socko entertainment delighting the folks from coast to coast.
(Mickey Rooney, Brian Donlevy, Ann Blyth)



Yes, the bald facts are that with these fine current entertainments and a terrific line-up of Big Ones coming, here's the new industry slogan—

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Cramblet Named UA Midwest Manager

Ralph Cramblet, United Artists branch manager in Minneapolis, has been appointed Midwestern district manager by J. J. Unger, general sales manager.

Cramblet will operate out of Chicago and will supervise the territory embracing Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis.

Cramblet started with UA 18 years ago as office manager in Chicago. After being promoted to salesman, he was transferred from Chicago to Minneapolis. He was named branch manager there in 1934.

House Labor Group to Quiz Petrillo Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, takes the stand at 10 A.M. tomorrow before a House Labor Committee which has been holding hearings for the last week on allegedly restrictive practices employed by his union.

The committee already has heard representatives of standard, FM, and television broadcasting, the chief networks, record manufacturers and transcription companies.

Petrillo Sees Agreement with Networks and AFM by Jan. 31

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, said here at the weekend, on resuming union contract negotiations with the four major networks, that he felt an agreement could be reached before expiration of the contract on Jan. 31.

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"MAY WE LET DOWN OUR HAIR AND TALK FRANKLY!"

M-G-M has more current pictures in the box-office headlines than any other company. *For instance:*



GREEN DOLPHIN STREET spectacular audience hit is hold-over champ.
(Lana Turner, Van Heflin, Donna Reed, Richard Hart)

CASS TIMBERLANE positively sensational in all early dates. For instance, it's M-G-M's 5-year high in Tulsa!
(Spencer Tracy, Lana Turner, Zachary Scott)

GOOD NEWS spreads Technicolor joy across the nation. Good news everywhere!
(June Allyson, Peter Lawford)



HIGH WALL is hair-raising! Audiences thrilled at Capitol, N. Y. World Premiere and all first bookings.
(Robert Taylor, Audrey Totter, Herbert Marshall)

KILLER McCOY is a socko entertainment delighting the folks from coast to coast.
(Mickey Rooney, Brian Donlevy, Ann Blyth)



Yes, the bald facts are that with these fine current entertainments and a terrific line-up of Big Ones coming, here's the new industry slogan—

M★G★M GREAT IN '48

U. S. Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

duces or exhibits. The existing decree gives assurance to the majors that they will control distribution because they have a certain market, the brief pointed out and adds that free, competitive distribution is needed to assure full diversity of film content.

"The past performance of defendants has been one of creating and maintaining a control of the film market expressly designed to prevent a diversity of financial rewards comfortable to the diverse merits of the films distributed," it maintains.

Calling for a 10-year ban on cross-licensing as an interim necessity until complete divorcement is attained, the Government brief declares that without such a prohibition the defendants could develop horizontal restrictive agreements among themselves, a practice already found unlawful by the lower court.

The 135-page document also reaffirms the Government's request for complete divestiture of theatres and reiterates its opposition to the competitive bidding system.

Since the defendants are by far the largest exhibitors and most important distributors, the brief holds, licensing agreements among them have set the pattern of operation of the entire conspiracy in most large cities. "Under such circumstances, use of these agreements should be prohibited . . . even though the defendants are deprived of rights they otherwise might have," it continues.

The Justice Department admits that the cross-licensing ban would not prevent defendants' theatres from showing films of "The Little Three," but adds that it would break up "the existing patterns of prior runs in the major defendants' theatres."

The trial court, it adds, should have compelled the majors to sell stock interests in theatre corporations jointly owned with independents.

20th-Fox Victor

(*Continued from page* 1)

trust suit here and that this court does not have the power to allow intervention. Judge Bright said his ruling that New Salinas was unqualified to bring proceedings made it unnecessary for him to rule on other opposition motions which the defendants had included with the one acted upon.

AMPA Welfare Will Stay Until MPF Acts

Associated Motion Picture Advertisers will continue to function as an industry welfare organization "until the Motion Picture Foundation appoints an AMPA representative on the MPF board," according to Arnold Stoltz, AMPA president, who said yesterday AMPA some time ago offered its services as a welfare organization to the MPF. Stoltz will leave here shortly for an extended stay in hollywood.

AMPA's nominating committee will meet here today to complete nominations for a new slate of officers.

New Pathescope V-P

Henry Strauss, formerly chief of the film division of the Bureau of Ships, U. S. Navy, has been elected a vice-president and director of Pathescope Productions, New York. Strauss will be in charge of sales and sales promotion activities for the company.

"The Naked City"

(*Continued from page* 1)

starts out to assemble clues, piece together fragments of information, and send his "legmen" scouring the city to trace false leads and build up new ones. As the drama runs its course, it catches many sidelines and little echoes of the city's life and habits, providing some of the most engaging moments in the picture.

The off-screen voice of Hellinger has been dubbed in, lending dramatic emphasis and direction to the narrative's development. There is something excitingly fresh in the way the screenplay of Albert Maltz and Malvin Wald manipulates its dramatic material and brings the relentless hunt to its explosive climax. Along the way it is gradually learned that the woman slain was a central figure in a ring of jewel thieves.

Here we have a highly polished, commercial piece of merchandise, made the more effective by the excellent photography of William Daniels. A Mark Hellinger production, it offers a heaping measure of good entertainment. Jules Buck was associate producer, with the original story by Wald.

Running time, 96 minutes. Adult audience classification. Set for February release.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"Call Northside 777"

(20th Century-Fox)

TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX this time went to the old master, Life, for its story material, for in "Call Northside 777" it has one of those thrilling true stories that often runs stranger than fiction. Many will remember from the newspapers the story of the Chicagoan who was given life imprisonment for a crime he never committed, and how through the unfaltering devotion of his mother, and the persistent probing of a reporter, he was finally vindicated.

Offering a genuine slice of life, and starring James Stewart as the *Chicago Times* reporter, the picture has real selling power. In bringing it to the screen, director Henry Hathaway used actual backgrounds whenever possible, thus furthering its authenticity. Filmgoers will remember the similar technique employed successfully in such Hathaway films as "The House on 92nd Street" and "Kiss of Death."

The film never overplays its dramatic material, yet it remains unwaveringly engrossing as it chronicles the wandering story of Stewart's steady gathering of clues and evidence. Stewart's mission all began when a little old scrub-woman placed an ad in the paper offering $5,000 reward for information leading to the killing of a police officer for which her son was convicted. Assigned to the yarn, Stewart approaches it with hard skepticism. Through interviews and inquiries, his skepticism melts into doubt and finally into a belief of the convicted man's innocence.

While Stewart gives an effective performance in this fascinating story, he seems to fall somewhat below his par in the earlier sequences when he portrays with almost exaggerated effect the glib and cynical disbeliever. Excellent supporting performances include those of Richard Conte as the prisoner; Kasia Orzazewski, his mother; Betty Garde, a disintegrating hag; Lee J. Cobb, the city editor, and Helen Walker, Stewart's wife. Otto Lang produced, from a screenplay by Jerome Cady and Jay Dratler, with an adaptation by Leonard Hoffman and Quentin Reynolds.

Running time, 111 minutes. Adult audience classification. Set for February release.

M. H.

"Albuquerque"

(Clarion-Paramount)

IN this Clarion production the producing team of William Pine and William Thomas comes up with a full-blown Western which is easily the most exciting and colorful film turned out by the two. The double Bills have endowed the picture with a wealth of assets that should pay off big at the box-office. Unquestionably they will win the gratitude of Western fans hands down. For sheer entertainment, "Albuquerque" stands at the top of the long list of productions which their showmanship-wise talent has created for popular consumption.

The drama develops from a feud between a business pirate (George Cleveland) who controls Albuquerque with an iron hand and his nephew (Randolph Scott), freshly come to town to join fortunes with him. When he learns of his uncle's ruthless methods to monopolize the hauling of ore, Scott breaks with him and joins a rival outfit headed by Russell Hayden, with whose sister (Catherine Craig) he falls in love. After a terrific battle in which Barbara Britton is used as a spy by Cleveland, Scott emerges triumphant.

The picture makes unusually effective use of Cinecolor. The punchy direction of Ray Enright must be credited with much of the explosive action which has gone into the unfurling of the Gene Lewis-Clarence Upson Young screenplay derived from Luke Short's novel. In "Albuquerque" the exhibitor is offered a picture that sounds a clarion call to Western fans.

Running time, 90 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 20.

P.E.L.

MPAA Parley

(*Continued from page* 1)

of "the foreign situation and a number of other problems," it is believed likely that the meeting will devote considerable time to the British situation where events have been moving toward a showdown. Possible Government aid under the Mundt bill may also be discussed.

Tax 'Evils' Charted

(*Continued from page* 1)

cent tax, and may also support the bill introduced on Monday by Rep. Hagen calling for a cut in the tax to the pre-war rate. Study of the latter bill, however, has not yet been completed by the TOA, Coyne said, adding that meanwhile all TOA units have been "alerted" on the new bill.

Feb. Hearings Seen

(*Continued from page* 1)

patents, trademarks and copyrights, said the Ascap bill was "very high on the committee's calendar" and that he would "give everyone a chance at the hearings." He will probably call Ascap head Gene Buck, Lewis said, and representatives of film producers and exhibitors.

The Lewis Bill, which is backed by the Allied States Association, is similar to a bill introduced in 1933, which was also supported by Allied. According to Allied general counsel Abram F. Myers, however, the current bill—which limits payment of the Ascap licensee fee to producers—is "much simpler."

Rep. Celler (D., N. Y.), who has been working on a bill of his own to curb Ascap, said he would have to study the Lewis Bill before deciding whether or not to introduce his own.

Myers Questions Ascap on Claims on Public-Domain

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Allied States charged today that recent disclosures in the State of Washington as to the amount of public-domain music on which Ascap claims royalties warranted "a thorough investigation of all Ascap pretensions."

Allied counsel Abram F. Myers said Ascap had filed cards listing 80,000 pieces of music for which the Society claimed copyrights and a sample of 60 cards picked at random by Washington's Deputy Secretary of State turned up 10 pieces in the public domain.

Brotherhood Week

(*Continued from page* 1)

they will represent follow: Edward Lachman, New Jersey; Robert J. Peratovich, Jr., Alaska; William E. Malin, Arkansas; I. J. Hoffman, Connecticut; Charles Niles, Iowa; Elmer C. Rhoden, Kansas; Guthrie Crows, Kentucky; E. V. Richards, Jr., Louisiana; I. M. Rappaport and Louis Gaertner, Maryland; Ted Bolnick, Minnesota.

Also: Arthur Lehmann, Mississippi; Harry C. Arthur, Missouri; Niel Morrison, New Hampshire; Milas L. Hurley, New Mexico; M. Lowenstein, Oklahoma; Ernesto Rufino, Philippines; Ramos Cobian, Puerto Rico; Tracy Barham, Utah; Frank A. Venette, Vermont; William F. Crockett, Virginia; Harold J. Fitzgerald, Wisconsin. Harry Brandt is national exhibitor chairman.

Thomas Company

(*Continued from page* 1)

for the past 10 years, and Sid Justman. Both Schwarz and Justman have a substantial financial interest in the Motion Picture Centre Studio, here, where Equity Pictures will have headquarters and produce. Jerry Thomas will join the new organization in a production capacity.

Thomas revealed that the first of its color features, "The Enchanted Valley," starring Alan Curtis, Anne Gwynne and Donn Gift, has been completed. Also finished is "Heading for Heaven," starring Stuart Erwin and Glenda Farrell. Both were produced by Schwarz, who in addition to production activities, is an exhibitor with an interest in various theatres throughout the country.

Next feature to be made by the new company has a tentative starting date of Feb. 15, with a color feature, "Jungle Girl," also being prepared now.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 15 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1948 TEN CENTS

MPEA, SIMPP Weigh Impasse Abroad Thurs.

Allport, McCarthy Due; SIMPP to Participate

Top film industry executives, including company presidents, Motion Picture Export Association members and representatives of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, will convene in Washington next Thursday for a day-long review of the foreign situation.

That the British tax impasse and, possibly, European frozen funds will bulk large in the discussions was given credence by the disclosure in Washington that Motion Picture Association of America's European manager Fayette W. Allport and MPAA's representative in France Frank McCarthy will leave London by plane Saturday to attend the meeting, which has been called by Eric A. Johnston, president of MPAA and MPEA.

Scheduled under MPEA auspices, the parley will consist of an MPEA

(*Continued on page 5*)

Did Not 'Pressure' Industry: Petrillo

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Asked by House Labor Committee Chairman Hartley today if he had not "held a gun" to Hollywood producers in inserting the restrictive television clause in contracts between the American Federation of Musicians and producers, AFM president James C. Petrillo replied that he had not, but that it would not have been fair for networks to buy Hollywood pictures for use on television, thus cut-

(*Continued on page 4*)

LeRoy Calls Cut in Costs Aid to Films

Production economies promise to be a boon to motion pictures by forcing better use of the industry's resources in the creation of entertainment. This was the view expressed by Mervyn LeRoy, here from the Coast on the way to a Florida vacation.

"I don't think that money alone

(*Continued on page 5*)

Traditional Slump in Key City Returns

Key-city theatre grosses last month took the same turn downward as in Dec., 1946 and 1945. Reasons for the drop were the same as those for the corresponding periods of prior years: the film-going public's preoccupation with the holidays and severe winter weather in many sections of the country.

Estimated weekly per theatre average of approximately 170 key city first-runs was $14,178 for December, compared with $16,262 in November, and $15,886 in December, 1946, according to reports from *Motion Picture Daily* field correspondents.

As in 1946 and 1945, the last two weeks of 1947 produced record lows

(*Continued on page 4*)

Split Ruling in McLendon Action

DALLAS, Jan. 21.—U. S. District Judge Atwell, ruling in Federal Court here on motions by exhibitor plaintiffs in the McLendon anti-trust suit against distributors and Interstate and Robb and Rowley turned down the plaintiffs' motion to strike each distributor's affirmative plea that the plaintiffs went into court with unclean hands by reason of incorrect percentage returns.

He denied, however, without preju-

(*Continued on page 4*)

20th-Fox May Use Plan in Twin Cities

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 21.—Twentieth Century-Fox may experiment next in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in a "flexible clearance plan calling for competitive negotiation of runs," similar to the method to be inaugurated in the Chicago area. Ben Friedman, owner of the suburban Edina, is understood to have recently approached the local 20th-Fox branch for "terms" of an earlier run than now available to the theatre under existing clearance operations, and if the 20th "flexible" clearance plan is widened to include the Twin Cities the Edina may be advised it can enter competitive negotiation with other theatres which may be zoned here by the distributor.

MPAA TAX STAND IS WRONG: WILSON

Roach-MGM Deal for Series Is in Work

Negotiations are underway between M-G-M and Hal Roach for a series of comedy features. The films, some in color, would be made independently by Roach at his Culver City Studios.

The producer's last picture, "Hal Roach Comedy Carnival," was released by United Artists, preceded by others which also went through UA.

Study Plan to Aid 'Security'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Newsreels and film producers, along with other media, would be "advised" of stories which encroached on national security under a plan being studied by officials of Secretary Forrestal's national defense group.

The plan, admittedly in the embryonic stage, would differ from the Byron Price war-time censorship when media were "requested" not to use stories. Ultimate decision under the contemplated plan would rest with the producer or publisher.

As yet, no film people have been approached, according to Capt. Robert Berry, Secretary Forrestal's press aide, who said he had asked various publishers to suggest names of persons in all fields who could attend a conference here in a month to six

(*Continued on page 4*)

MPF Planning Unit Will Meet Tuesday

Motion Picture Foundation's program-and-scope committee, which has been assigned by MPF trustees to survey the industry's needs in terms of relief and assistance, will hold its first meeting next Tuesday at the Hotel Astor here, it was announced yesterday by Ned E. Depinet and Ted Gamble, committee chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

Other members of the committee include: Dr. Jacob Fishman, Chick

(*Continued on page 4*)

Cannot 'Squeeze' UK Into Giving Ground, BOT Chief Declares

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 21. — Proposals made thus far by the Motion Picture Association of America for settlement of the British *ad valorem* tax deadlock "do not seem founded on a real understanding of the situation," Harold Wilson, president of the British Board of Trade, told the House of Commons today, in an address supporting a second reading and passage of the national film quota bill.

"I confidently tell Hollywood," Wilson said, "that if they believe they can squeeze us into modifying our attitude on the *ad valorem* tax, they back a 'loser'."

Wilson held it possible that the American industry faces the issue on the hope that with the passage of time the British theatres' need for new U. S. films will drive the British government to drop the duty or modify it considerably. "I loathe to think that any deals on Hollywood's part in making proposals to end the deadlock are based on so slender a foundation," he added.

Conceding that the new quota bill was introduced at a "time of great difficulty and anxiety in the film world," Wilson said, however, that it has been valuable in determining to a large ex-

(*Continued on page 5*)

Probe of British Film Industry Planned

London, Jan. 21.—A British government inquiry into virtually every phase of distribution and exhibition here will be launched as soon as the nation's international position in terms of film trade has been clarified, British Board of Trade president Harold Wilson told the House of Commons today.

A government committee, he said, will probe whatever monopolies there may be, the circuits' booking situation compared to the independents' and also the whole question of production financing.

Personal Mention

ARTHUR W. KELLY, United Artists executive vice-president, and KAY HARRISON, managing director of Technicolor, Ltd., and MRS. HARRISON are among passengers due here tomorrow from England on the *SS Queen Elizabeth*.

•

LOUIS JOSEPH BERNHARD, son of Film Classics president JOSEPH BERNHARD and MRS. BERNHARD, was married last night at the Waldorf-Astoria, here, to ELSIE LEONE MARKS, who is also associated with Film Classics.

•

GEORGE SMITH, Paramount Western division manager with headquarters in Los Angeles, is on a tour of his territory following a division managers' meeting here.

•

RUTGERS NEILSON, RKO Radio publicity manager here, has been re-elected to the public relations committee of the Dance Educators of America.

•

RUDOLPH WEISS, head of Warner's home office real estate department, and his assistant, JULES LEVEY, left here yesterday for Pittsburgh and are due back tomorrow.

•

JAY EISENBERG, M-G-M sales-legal liasion, and LEONARD HIRSCH, home office assistant to Southern sales manager RUDY BERGER, will return to New York today from Washington.

•

A. JACK SHUMOW, Warner Brothers' Chicago branch manager, celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary yesterday.

•

STEVE BROIDY, Allied Artists-Monogram president, left Hollywood yesterday for a week's vacation.

•

GEORGE WELTNER, Paramount foreign department head, will leave here Saturday for the Coast.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M exploitation head, will leave Cincinnati today for Chicago.

•

SAM SEIDELMAN, Eagle-Lion head of foreign sales, is en route to New York from Hollywood.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, head of M-G-M's short subject sales, will leave New York Sunday for Boston.

•

EDWARD A. GOLDEN, producer, has been appointed an honorary member of the Texas Rangers.

Edward P. Strong, 64, Cleveland Showman

CLEVELAND, Jan. 21.—Edward P. Strong, 64, who in association with Fred Desberg and Emanuel Mandelbaum built a local theatre circuit now operated by Loew's, died today in Hollywood, Fla., of a heart attack, it was learned here. In recent years he had drive-in and amusement park interests. The widow survives. Funeral services will be held here.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

ALLIED thinks a beaut has been hung on Ascap and now arrives at the conclusion enough information has come to light to substantiate a thorough checkup of "all of Ascap's pretensions."

The situation centers around the decision of the Supreme Court of the State of Washington holding the composers' society has failed to comply with a state law requiring it to file a list of its copyrighted music, as well as data on each music title, before undertaking to conduct business there. By this ruling, the high court reversed a lower court which had granted a declaratory judgment maintaining requirements of the state law had been met.

■

Allied offers this detail: "The law required that Ascap file a list of its claimed copyrights. This, Ascap undertook to do by lodging . . . about 80,000 cards, each containing the name of a musical composition. Ascap asked for a declaratory judgment to the effect that it was in good faith complying with the law. To test the question a deputy secretary of state picked 60 cards out of the file at random. The Supreme Court found that 10 of these cards showed on their face that the compositions were not copyrighted—that they were in the public domain."

One of the ten, according to Allied, listed Chopin's Etude, Opus 25, No. 7 in C Minor, and another Beethoven's Minuet in G. Webster's Biographical Dictionary, also according to Allied, says Chopin was born in 1810 and died in 1849; that Beethoven entered this world in 1770 and died in 1827. "Copyrights run for 28 years. Under certain conditions they may be renewed for another like period. But 56 years is the limit," Abram F. Myers points out.

That's how and why Allied reaches the conclusion that it's a beaut and the whole state of affairs ought to be pursued further.

■ ■

The word is American funds now blocked in Italy, France, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Australia may be liquidated by producing in whole, or in part, in those countries. Eddie Small was one of the first to get hep and is busy in Italy. David Selznick has chosen Scandinavia and Ibsen.

Aside from the economic, another phase of this circumstance suggests considerable possibility. On the domestic scene this is exemplified by "Call Northside 777," which Henry Hathaway directed almost in toto in Chicago for 20th Century Fox; and also by "The Naked City," produced well nigh to the last scene in New York by the late Mark Hellinger for Universal. Both reek with authenticity and authority.

The occasional abandonment of Hollywood for the field offers a fresh note which will appeal to eager creators. Hollywood does an effective job of roaming the world without actually leaving its city limits. But a substitute for any original is never quite the same.

■ ■

By edict, the Hungarian public will have to get along without films in which Robert Taylor, Gary Cooper, Adolphe Menjou, George Murphy, Robert Montgomery and Allan Jones appear. The first five were witnesses at the recent Congressional sub-committee probe of Hollywood. This seems to have provided the Communist Minister of the Interior at Budapest with enough reason.

Unsubstantiated from any source whatsoever is the report Montgomery's films are being gored because he called his last one "Ride the Pink Horse." The color appears not to have been deep enough.

■ ■

It's a reverse pitch at 20th-Fox on "Call Northside 777," a true story about a man given a 99-year sentence for a murder he never committed. All the events and characters depicted in it are *not* fictional. Any similarity with actual persons, living or dead, is *intentional*.

■ ■

The Johnston office nailed a dilly the other day: The report in the French Communist press crediting the American companies with hauling out $20,000,000 a month in profits from La Belle.

This is a raving at the rate of $240,000,000 a year from France alone when total overseas remittances in '46 were a record $138,000,000 and at about the same level in early '47 after which they began to drop. Authority: The U. S. Department of Commerce.

Schwartz and Ptak Reelected by CMPEA

Cleveland, Jan. 21.—Reelected by acclamation by members of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, today, were Ernest Schwartz, president for the 15th consecutive year, and Albert E. Ptak, vice-president for the 12th year.

Ted Vermes was elected treasurer and all board members were reelected, with the addition of Howard Reif.

Five-Film Increase In Coast Production

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 21.—The production level has risen to 23 from last week's record low of 18. Eight new films were started, while three were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "The Argyle Secrets" (Eronel), Film Classics; "Julia Misbehaves," M-G-M; "Abigail, Dear Heart" and "Sorry, Wrong Number" (Hal Wallis), Paramount; "The Avenger," UPA Films; "John Loves Mary," "The Fighting Terror" and "Rope" (a Transatlantic picture), Warner.

Shooting finished on "The Iron Curtain" and "Walls of Jericho," 20th Century-Fox, and "Man-Eater of Kamaon" (Monty Shaff), Universal-International.

MGM's 'Dolphin' Set For Chicago Showing

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—First M-G-M picture to play the Loop since the Jackson Park decision will be "Green Dolphin Street," which is set for the Chicago Theatre for two weeks starting Feb. 5. Twentieth Century-Fox's "Call Northside 777" will follow. Last M-G-M film here was "Unfinished Dance" at the United Artists Theatre.

A new distribution formula, which will probably provide for flexible clearance and competitive negotiation for runs, is being mapped by M-G-M for the Chicago area.

Peck in Red Cross Film

The American Red Cross has selected Gregory Peck to star in its annual motion picture appeal for funds, it has been announced by Howard Bonham, vice-president in charge of public relations for the Red Cross. Joe Weil, chief of the film section, has arrived in Hollywood from Washington to work with Selznick studio officials who will produce.

Johnston at Luncheon

Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, will speak at the Protestant Motion Picture Council luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here next Tuesday. The occasion will mark the presentation of the council's first annual award for the top entertainment picture of the year.

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NEW GOLD STRIKE IN CALIFORNIA!



BONANZA 3-THEATRE WORLD PREMIERE
UNDER WAY IN LOS ANGELES NOW!
TREMENDOUS START FOR THE BIG
NATION-WIDE KEY SHOWINGS
THIS WEEK!!!

WARNER BROS. ARE READY WITH

TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE

STARRING

HUMPHREY BOGART

WITH

WALTER HUSTON

TIM HOLT · BRUCE BENNETT



DIRECTED BY
JOHN HUSTON

PRODUCED BY
HENRY BLANKE

SCREEN PLAY BY JOHN HUSTON • BASED ON THE NOVEL BY B. TRAVEN • MUSIC BY MAX STEINER

'Vets' Would Not Pay 20% Federal Levy

Washington, Jan. 21.—Rep. Mitchell today introduced a bill to exempt servicemen and veterans who had been hospitalized from paying the 20 per cent Federal tax on theatre admissions.

Petrillo

(*Continued from page* 1)

ting employment on local radio stations.

Rep. Carroll D. Kearns, who headed the sub-committee which investigated the television clauses in film contracts, said following today's labor committee examination of Petrillo that so far as the committee is concerned the film contracts were a finished topic.

Kearns said it had been proved conclusively that there was no collusion on the part of motion picture producers and that therefore the committee would not go into the matter any further. Early in the hearing, while describing the decline in employment of musicians, Petrillo told the committee that Loew's State Theatre in New York City had "thrown out a whole orchestra for the first time in 25 years," and that "the finest theatre in Chicago" had done the same thing for the first time in 30 years.

He asked if Congress could pass a law permitting the AFM to make recordings for home use and letting those who buy records for use on radio stations and juke boxes "fight it out wth the musicians' union."

Petrillo's attorney, Milton Diamond, will testify before the committee tomorrow. On Friday, members of the musicians' union are due to appear.

Petrillo had all the Democrats and most of the Republicans on the committee well on his side. Nevertheless, Chairman Hartley told a press conference at the close of the hearing that he is "convinced there is an acute need for legislation to curb Petrillo's activities." He said a change in the copyright law is the best answer.

MPF Planning Unit

(*Continued from page* 1)

Lewis, Max A. Cohen, Barney Balaban, Jay Emanuel, William K. Jenkins, Max Yellen, Leopold Friedman and MPF president E. V. Richards, Jr.

Meanwhile, MPF headquarters here reported yesterday that the organization's special finance committee, headed by Si Fabian and Leonard Goldenson, will seek immediately to raise $50,000 to cover the Foundation's interim administration expenses. The finance committee is currently engaged in determining fund-raising methods and financial administration of the MPF, with a final goal a possible $10,000,000.

Plan U-I Sales Meets

A. J. O'Keefe, Universal-International assistant general sales manager; E. T. Gomersall, assistant to distribution vice-president William A. Scully, and James Jordan, contract and play-date manager, left here yesterday for Hollywood where they will confer with Scully on the company's forthcoming series of regional sales meetings which will start at San Francisco on Feb. 1.

Key City Averages

(*Continued from page* 1)

for the year. The first week of December, with an average of $17,368, again proved to be a traditionally top week for theatre business. Last previous 1947 low month was May which recorded a weekly average of $14,695. The trend was more or less steadily upward after that.

"Green Dolphin Street" was the box-office leader last month. Second was "Where There's Life," followed by "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," which was almost crowded out of third place by "Body and Soul," a strong third in November.

Other films which demonstrated outstanding grossing strength in a number of situations during the month were "Unconquered" (second in November), "Fun and Fancy Free" and "The Exile."

Also outstanding were: "Road to Rio," "Escape Me Never," "Out of the Past," "This Time for Keeps," "The Upturned Glass," "Christmas Eve," "It Had to Be You" and "Red Stallion."

Following in order were: "The Best Years of Our Lives," "Voice of the Turtle," "The Outlaw," "Gentlemen's Agreement," "The Gangster," "Spirit of West Point," "Black Narcissus," "Song of Love," "Lone Wolf in London," "Wild Harvest," "That Hagen Girl," "Ride the Pink Horse," "Crossfire," "Her Husband's Affairs," "Intrigue," "Daisy Kenyon," "The Wistful Widow of Wagon Gap," "Golden Earrings" and "They Won't Believe Me."

Composite key city box-office reports for 1947 compared with those of 1946, follow:

1947 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 3-4	167	$3,678,100	$22,024
Jan. 10-11	173	3,363,200	19,400
Jan. 17-18	173	3,007,300	17,383
Jan. 24-25	176	3,043,700	17,294
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	181	2,293,600	18,197
Feb. 7-8	177	2,089,600	17,495
Feb. 14-15	177	2,767,900	15,638
Feb. 21-22	182	3,042,700	16,718
Feb. 28-Mar. 1	166	2,800,300	16,869
Mar. 7-8	178	2,906,400	16,328
Mar. 14-15	174	2,890,300	16,610
Mar. 21-22	173	2,922,900	16,895
Mar. 28-29	178	3,069,500	17,245
April 4-5	179	2,838,800	15,859
April 11-12	184	2,239,500	17,606
April 18-19	177	2,973,400	16,798
April 25-26	183	2,917,900	15,945
May 2-3	177	2,699,800	15,253
May 9-10	175	2,578,100	15,732
May 16-17	176	2,650,400	15,059
May 23-24	169	2,369,100	14,018
May 30-31	173	2,590,100	14,972
June 6-7	178	2,834,800	15,926
June 13-14	165	2,511,700	15,222
June 20-21	170	2,579,400	15,173
June 27-28	174	2,557,000	14,695
July 4-5	163	2,507,300	15,382
July 11-12	169	2,734,800	16,182
July 18-19	174	2,555,900	14,689
July 25-26	156	2,561,700	16,421
Aug. 1-2	160	2,511,500	15,696
Aug. 8-9	166	2,612,700	15,742
Aug. 15-16	164	2,622,300	15,989
Aug. 22-23	170	2,931,800	17,246
Aug. 29-30	164	2,786,700	16,992
Sept. 5-6	159	2,829,000	17,792
Sept. 12-13	170	2,855,600	16,209
Sept. 19-20	167	2,716,800	16,268
Sept. 26-27	172	2,845,000	16,541
Oct. 3-4	177	2,852,100	16,113
Oct. 10-11	171	2,665,900	15,590
Oct. 17-18	176	2,923,900	16,613
Oct. 24-25	177	2,956,600	16,704
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	177	3,029,500	17,116
Nov. 7-8	178	3,082,600	17,318
Nov. 14-15	175	2,937,800	16,781
Nov. 21-22	174	2,821,800	16,217
Nov. 28-29	164	2,416,300	14,733
Dec. 5-6	166	2,883,100	17,368
Dec. 12-13	173	2,482,900	14,352
Dec. 19-20	175	2,385,500	13,629
Dec. 26-27	165	1,875,000	11,363

1946 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 4-5	142	$3,304,300	$23,270
Jan. 11-12	144	2,940,100	20,417
Jan. 18-19	150	2,706,300	18,040
Jan. 25-26	158	2,800,100	17,722
Feb. 1-2	157	2,227,000	18,390
Feb. 8-9	158	2,798,300	17,756
Feb. 15-16	159	2,755,400	17,330
Feb. 22-23	156	2,638,200	16,918
Mar. 1-2	164	2,106,000	18,939
Mar. 8-9	163	2,926,600	17,955
Mar. 15-16	154	2,818,800	18,304
Mar. 22-23	165	2,981,100	18,067
Mar. 29-30	167	2,810,300	16,828
April 5-6	170	2,908,100	17,106
April 12-13	165	2,845,300	17,244
April 19-20	161	2,694,600	16,737
April 26-27	164	3,187,000	19,433
May 3-4	162	3,025,400	18,675
May 10-11	144	2,409,700	16,734
May 17-18	150	2,526,500	16,843
May 24-25	152	2,406,500	15,832
May 31-June 1	130	2,058,200	15,855
June 7-8	152	2,803,000	18,506
June 14-15	154	2,541,800	16,506
June 21-22	140	2,406,900	17,092
June 28-29	159	2,599,000	16,094
July 5-6	167	2,737,500	16,392
July 12-13	154	2,944,200	19,112
July 19-20	163	2,599,300	15,928
July 26-27	157	2,702,700	17,215
Aug. 2-3	165	2,856,600	17,193
Aug. 9-10	162	2,919,700	18,023
Aug. 16-17	157	2,852,000	18,165
Aug. 23-24	167	3,078,800	18,435
Aug. 30-31	166	2,984,500	17,979
Sept. 6-7	171	3,469,600	20,290
Sept. 13-14	170	3,015,600	17,739
Sept. 20-21	169	3,944,800	17,425
Sept. 27-28	168	2,804,900	16,696
Oct. 4-5	172	2,995,300	17,409
Oct. 11-12	169	2,740,800	16,218
Oct. 18-19	169	2,701,000	15,982
Oct. 25-26	177	3,093,000	17,475
Nov. 1-2	174	2,925,000	16,810
Nov. 8-9	164	2,830,800	17,261
Nov. 15-16	177	3,068,800	17,338
Nov. 22-23	170	2,785,400	16,384
Nov. 29-30	160	2,698,700	16,867
Dec. 6-7	174	3,328,900	19,131
Dec. 13-14	163	2,699,100	16,559
Dec. 20-21	168	2,381,000	14,173
Dec. 27-28	161	2,202,100	13,677

McLendon Action

(*Continued from page* 1)

dice, the right of the distributors to maintain counterclaims in the plaintiffs' anti-trust suit for damages from the claimed conspiracy to submit such returns not only for the two Dallas theatres involved in the suit but for 17 additional theatres operated by the McLendons in other towns in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The McLendons' anti-trust suit, claiming unreasonable clearance granted to other theatres over the McLendons' Beverly Hills and Casa Linda theatres in Dallas, is scheduled for trial at the beginning of March.

Denial without prejudice, distributor counsel holds, leaves each distributor free to file as a plaintiff separate suit for such damages.

Security Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

weeks at which details of the plan would be worked out. He indicated he was more interested in securing the cooperation of newsreels than feature producers, since the time lag in producing a long film "pretty well takes care of the security problem."

Berry said the conference could go on record against the whole idea, in which case he is willing to scrap it.

The plan as presently envisaged would be to set up an advisory board of leaders in magazine, radio, television and newsreel fields. Various military security projects would be outlined to the group, and they would decide what type subjects should be kept secret.

News Briefs

EDWARD STOLLER has been appointed branch manager in Minneapolis for United Artists. He succeeds Ralph Cramblet, who was promoted to the post of Midwestern district manager this week.

$250,000 Advertising Budget for Artists' 'Prelude' to Night

A $250,000 advertising budget has been established for "Prelude to Night," first film of Producing Artists for Eagle-Lion release, following conferences between president Arthur Lyons and Irving Rubine of Producing Artists; Eagle-Lion president Arthur B. Krim; director of advertising-publicity Max E. Youngstein, and studio publicity director Sam Israel, and Clark Ramsay, of the Monroe Advertising Agency.

UA Sub-leases the Broadway For Stage Presentations

United Artists has closed a percentage-of-the-gross deal with stage producer David Lowe for the sub-letting to Lowe of the UA-leased Broadway Theatre here. The theatre, which last year was converted by UA from a stage house into a UA "showcase," and which has been blacked-out for the past several weeks, will reopen next Wednesday with Lowe's stage production, "The Cradle Will Rock."

Ceremonies Mark Premiere of Fitzpatrick Color Subject

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., Jan. 21.—A premiere showing of James Fitzpatrick's M-G-M Technicolor Travelog, "Cradle of a Nation," will be sponsored here today by the Chamber of Commerce.

The subject features scenes of 18th Century Williamsburg. The screening will be preceded by a luncheon and talks by William F. Crockett, president of Virginia Theatres, and Dr. Charles F. Marsh, Chamber of Commerce president here.

German, Schwalberg Added to Brotherhood Drive Chairmen

William German has been appointed chairman for the laboratory and allied groups division in the American Brotherhood Week campaign, while Al Schwalberg has been named chairman for independent producers. The appointments were announced at a Hotel Astor luncheon here at which speakers included J. Robert Rubin, David Weinstock, Harry Brandt, Edward Lachman, Si Seadler, Robert Mochrie, Robert Coyne, Sam Shain, Oscar Hammerstein II and Brock Pemberton.

Miss Adams Joins Jim Booth

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—Edna Adams has resigned her post in Essaness Theatres' advertising department to work in a similar post for Jim Booth, exhibitor here. Miss Adams is replaced by Robert Wilson, former assistant manager of the Buckingham Theatre.

Sport Cavalcade in Film

A feature presentation, "Carnival of Sports," described as a Cavalcade of Sport from the turn of the century to date, will have its premiere today at Brandt's Victory Theatre here.

Says UK Market Is Vital to Hollywood

London, Jan. 21.—Asserting that it is universally known here that the British market is essential to Hollywood, Oliver Lyttelton, speaking in the House of Commons today in behalf of the Tory opposition, said American producers "should by now appreciate that we are in earnest when the government says we cannot afford dollars anywhere like the extent they (U. S. distributors) hope."

Lyttelton said that although he would not suggest that the British government retire its main position on the *ad valorem* tax situation, he hopes a certain flexibility and goodwill might resolve the present problem.

Wilson on Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

tent the "somewhat fitful but so far unproductive negotiations with American producers."

The film quota bill, following day-long debate in Commons, was voted a second reading.

Wilson reviewed the British viewpoint in these words: "We stand by the import duty. We cannot continue finding dollars to meet the payment of film earnings here. We are prepared to make any reasonable arrangement and work out a scheme which will allow extra earnings to be taken out of Britain to the extent to which our films earn more money abroad."

He warned that the supply of American films in Britain could not for long be expected to attract the British public with the regularity with which they did in the past. He acknowledged that if a settlement of the tax deadlock is not reached, British exhibitors will be in a serious position. Complete discontinuance of double feature programs will be forthcoming as will longer runs, Wilson said, adding: "In a choice between modified austerity in films and further reductions in food, I am sure Parliament and the country are solidly behind the government in standing firm."

If the British government expected the deadlock to continue indefinitely, Wilson declared, the quota bill would not have been introduced. He described the *ad valorem* tax as an emergency measure dictated only by a lack of dollars and not imposed to confer protection on the British industry. The best of Hollywood films are always welcomed in Britain as are products of European studios, he said.

Oklahoma Theatre Burns

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 21.—Second theatre fire in four days has swept Maysville's Granada Theatre, causing $25,000 damage. Cause of the blaze was undetermined, according to co-owner Robert Roller.

No Video for Academy

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 21.—Citing technical problems as the reason, Jean Hersholt, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, has notified television companies that the annual Academy Award ceremonies will not be televised.

Reviews

"Angels Alley"

(*Monogram*)

Hollywood, Jan. 21

PRODUCER Jan Grippo of the Bowery Boys pictures addresses his attentions directly to the matter of juvenile delinquency in this installment of the hardy young men's experiences, with a result which establishes a new high for the series. It has as much action as the junior trade can reasonably demand, and it hands the young people something to think about after they have left the theatre. Direction by William Beaudine is up to his usual proficient standard, and the script by Edmond Seward, Tim Ryan and Gerald Schnitzer is tight and purposeful.

The Bowery Boys—and just about all of them are present this time: Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall, Billy Benedict, Gabriel Dell, Frankie Darro—find themselves closer than they like to be to the stolen-car racket when Darro, out of jail on probation, joins up with racketeer Nestor Paiva over the protest of Gorcey, his cousin. The latter, caught by police although present only in attempt to prevent a warehouse robbery, is paroled to the neighborhood priest (Nelson Leigh) and, later, pretends to join the crooks, actually accomplishing their exposure and capture.

Running time, 67 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Slippy McGee"

(*Republic*)

THE familiar story of the hardened criminal who becomes regenerated through wholesome influences of honest townfolks is offered in "Slippy McGee." Despite some stock situations, the film has an abundance of action and proves to be fairly interesting drama. Donald Barry makes a tough safe-cracker in the title role, but beneath his hard exterior there is a sensitive soul. It becomes the duty of Tom Brown, young village priest, to excavate, and bring out the buried goodness in his personality, ultimately inspiring him to good citizenship. Dale Evans plays the town nurse who eventually helps set the patient straight.

The Norman S. Hall and Jerry Gruskin screenplay has Slippy hiding out in a small town, where he is hit by a truck while saving a child from being run down. Befriended by the priest and helped by Miss Hale, Slippy figures on going straight. But meanwhile his former henchmen-in-crime decide to rob the town bank and Slippy is blamed for the deed. There is a good deal of fisticuffs, shooting, and suspense before all things turn out right. Based on a novel by Marie Conway Oemler, Albert Kelley directed; Lou Brock was associate producer.

Running time, 65 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Jan. 15.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"The Main Street Kid"

(*Republic*)

IN "The Main Street Kid", Republic once again employs the services of radio comedy star Al Pearce to win the good-will of family audiences. That the picture succeeds in its purpose is due largely to the warm simplicity and homespun quality of both the comedian's performance and his material. The story has been unreeled with sufficient amusement to make it possible to overlook much of its implausibility. The laughs may not be uproarious, but there are enough of them to suit.

Pearce enacts a small-town printer who is wild about mental telepathy. A blow on the "noggin" endows him with the power to read minds, enabling him to foil a plot by Alan Mowbray, a mind-reading charlatan, and Adele Mara, a gold-digging show gal, to win Byron S. Barry, wealthy publisher, from Janet Martin, the comedian's daughter, and inveigle the youth into marriage to Miss Mara. Complications are provided when Pearce, as a result of another blow on the head, loses his telepathic powers as suddenly as he acquired them.

Sidney Picker contributed adequate production, with lively direction forthcoming from R. G. Springsteen. The screenplay of Jerry Sackheim, stemming from a radio play by Caryl Coleman, contains some surprising turns.

Running time, 64 minutes. General audience classification.

P. E. L.

"Black Hills"

(*PRC-Eagle-Lion*)

FISTS and bullets fly in all directions in "Black Hills," a standard Western starring Eddie Dean and featuring Roscoe Ates and Shirley Patterson. Three melodies, rendered by Dean and others, give the goings-on an added lilt.

The original screenplay, by Joseph Poland, is one in which the villains learn of gold deposits on a ranch, and then pave the way towards foreclosing the mortgage. In between, there is the usual skullduggery and murder. Ates provides his customary slapstick while Dean goes about exposing the badmen with proper dash and vigor. Produced by Jerry Thomas and directed by Ray Taylor, musical numbers include "Black Hills," "Punchinello" and "Let's Go Sparkin'."

Running time, 60 minutes. General audience classification.

M. H.

U-I Exchange Completed

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—Universal-International's new film exchange here will be ready for occupancy next week. It was built at a reported cost of $400,000.

Video-Film Meet Tonight

William Morris of Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn will discuss motion pictures in television tonight at a meeting of the American Television Society at the Advertising Club here.

Any Questions On New Export Rule?

Washington, Jan. 21.—Film industry foreign managers having difficulty understanding the U. S. Commerce Department's new order requiring individual validated licenses for all shipments to Europe after March 1, can get their questions answered at the Hotel New Yorker in New York on Jan. 29, the Department reports.

Experts from the Department's Office of International Trade will be on hand to explain the new policy.

MPEA Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

executive committee session during the day and a board of directors meeting at night.

With its announcement in Hollywood yesterday that it will send delegates to the conference, the SIMPP executive committee, functioning as a governing body pending selection of a successor to Donald M. Nelson, declared:

"There can be no just or legal solution to the British tax problem without full consideration of the rights of independent producers. There can be no adequate solution unless it is implemented by the full weight of the people of the United States through the State Department."

Cost Cut Held Boon

(*Continued from page* 1)

makes pictures," the M-G-M director said. "The real creative brains we have in our business can do anything if they put their minds to it." He held the problem of producing good pictures with less money could be solved by compelling everybody involved to "buckle down."

Greater enthusiasm and closer working ties between producer and director are regarded as vital by LeRoy to the success of screen entertainment under current conditions.

According to the director, the film business today needs "more real creators and fewer critics." He said the quality of pictures is being hampered by a shortage of "fresh creators."

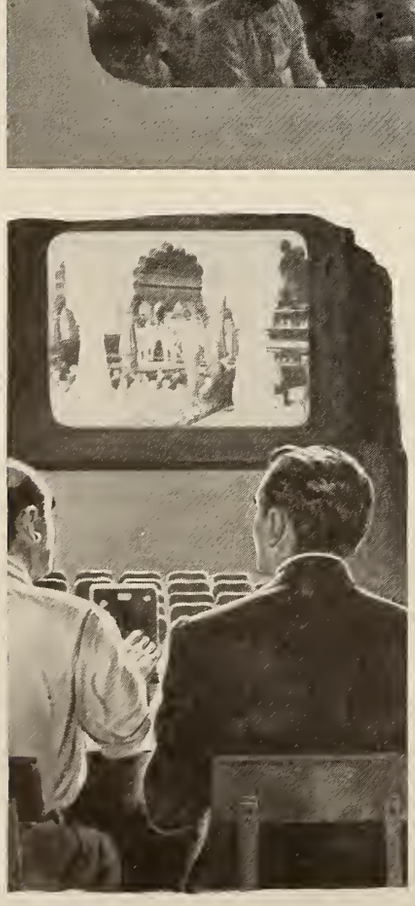
LeRoy reserved his strongest complaint for theatre managers. He said their sole interest today is money. They did not seem to care any more about how their houses are run, he argued.

The director has left for Boca Raton, where he will stay three or four weeks before heading back to the Coast.



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Yet the newsreel editor would be the first to give due credit to his staff of cameramen . . . and to the Eastman motion picture films which help them cover the news—and help him present it so effectively.

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VOL. 63. NO. 16 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1948 TEN CENTS

Film Dividends Estimated at $80,000,000

Reach an All-Time High, Washington Discloses

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Publicly reported dividends paid by motion picture companies in 1947 hit a record high of $50,718,000, the Department of Commerce disclosed here today.

This was nine per cent higher than the $46,714,000 reported for 1946. And, if the Commerce Department's usual estimate holds true—that its figures include only 60 per cent of all dividends paid by motion picture companies—then the total of all industry dividends paid during 1947 may have topped $80,000,000, likewise an all-time high for the industry.

Dividends reported for the month of December dropped sharply, however, with $7,967,000 reported for December 1947, and $10,840,000 reported for December 1946, bringing payments for the last two months of 1947 below those for the similar 1946 period.

1st Managers' Meet Of NTS in 7 Years

National Theatre Supply plans a meeting of branch managers at New York's Park Central Hotel, Feb. 2-5, under the direction of Walter E. Green, president.

Although frequent district meetings have been held throughout the country, this is the first general meeting of branch heads since Feb., 1941. All sessions will also be attended by home office executives. Theme of the meeting will be "General Sales Plans and Policies for 1948," and the agenda will include visits to International Projector's plant at Bloomfield, N. J., and General Precision's laboratories at Pleasantville, N. Y.

Lawson Is Head of Canadian Pioneers

TORONTO, Jan. 22.—J. Earl Lawson, president of Odeon Theatres of Canada, was elected president of the Canadian Picture Pioneers at a meeting of the board of directors tonight which followed the annual general get-together of the association. Law-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Mochrie Heads MPA Sales Managers' Unit

Robert Mochrie, RKO Radio vice-president in charge of distribution, was elected chairman of the sales managers committee for one year, succeeding Tom Connors, at a meeting of the distribution division of the Motion Picture Association of America.



Robert Mochrie

The meeting, held here this week, was for the purpose of discussing what part the division will take in connection with the Motion Picture Foundation and the forthcoming "American Brotherhood Week," of which Mochrie is national distributor chairman.

Rathvon and Warner In Stock Trades

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO, has sold 5,000 shares of $1 par common RKO stock—20 per cent of his RKO holdings—according to a Securities and Exchange Commission report on stock transactions by insiders. After the sale Rathvon held 20,000 shares.

Other transactions in motion picture company stocks were relatively minor, according to the report.

Warner Brothers vice-president Al-

(*Continued on page* 8)

U. K. STAND ON TAX WRONG: JOHNSTON

Delay Trials of 10 Indicted Two Weeks

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Trials of the 10 Hollywood writers and directors indicted for contempt of Congress have been postponed for two weeks, with the first trial, that of John Howard Lawson, now set for Feb. 24.

Postponement was due to District Court Judge Richmond B. Keech's granting an extension of time to attorneys for the 10 in which to file a motion to dismiss the indictment. This will undoubtedly move up to March or April the "second phase" of the

(*Continued on page* 8)

TOA Leaders Set to Confer in N. Y. Today

Problems affecting members of the Theatre Owners of America will be discussed at a conference at TOA headquarters here today. Participants will include Ted Gamble, president of the TOA; Si Fabian, chairman of the executive committee and regional vice-president, and Robert W. Coyne, executive director.

Among subjects up for discussion will be the Ascap situation, taxes, 16mm. pictures and television. High on the agenda is expected to be the question of the resumption of meetings with Ascap on new music taxes. Gamble is due in from the Coast today.

'Squeeze' Is Applied By Britain, Not U. S., MPAA Chief Counters

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22. — Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, declared today that Britain does not face a choice between food and films but rather between a tax that prohibits American films and a workable alternative. He said as far as American producers went, the door remained wide open for working out an alternative.

In a sharply-worded answer to British Board of Trade President Harold Wilson's speech in Commons yesterday, the MPAA head said that Wilson was right in talking about a "squeeze," but "he is in error in saying who is doing the squeezing."

"Through this confiscatory tax, the British government is squeezing American films out of Britain because

(*Continued on page* 8)

Pool, Not Merger For G-B and Odeon

LONDON, Jan. 22.—J. Arthur Rank's plan to combine the Gaumont-British and Odeon circuits will result in an operational pooling arrangement and not a complete merger, Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Cenutry-Fox, who is here from the U. S. for conferences with Rank on the deal, said here today. Twentieth-Fox has a substantial interest in G-B.

Each circuit will maintain its own financial identity, Skouras explained, but practical control, booking operations, and other features will be "streamlined" under one head, probably John Davis, managing director of the J. Arthur Rank Organization.

Canada 3rd - Quarter Taxes Take Increases

OTTAWA, Jan. 22.—Canadian amusement tax collections for the third quarter of 1947 were higher than for the corresponding period of 1946. October collections amounted to $1,372,649; November, $1,266,079, and December, $1,150,380. Figures for the corresponding months of 1946 were $1,335,054, $1,242,254, and $1,062,349.

M-G-M, 20th, Paramount Hardest Hit in Britain

LONDON, Jan. 22.—Of all American distributors here, M-G-M is in the worst predicament in terms of unreleased film supplies here. With virtually no unreleased product left in its vaults, the company is making frantic endeavors to bring out popular reissues.

An up-to-date survey of unreleased U. S. product here shows that there are left 20 "A's," 10 of "average" merit, and about 25 "B's," the latter owned by smaller U. S. distributors.

Also hard-hit are Paramount and 20th Century-Fox. However, these two have some British pictures to offer.

Meanwhile, independent British ex-

(*Continued on page* 8)

25 - Day Delay in Jackson Park Case

Chicago, Jan. 22. — Attorneys for distributor defendants were today granted 25 days, until Feb. 16, by Federal Judge Michael Igoe in which to file answers for contempt violations of the Jackson Park Theatre decree, as filed by attorney Thomas McConnell. Oral hearing was set for Feb. 20 at two P. M. in Judge Igoe's court, here. The Jackson Park order affects the clearance system here.

Personal Mention

CHARLES BOASBERG, RKO Radio North-South division manager, will resume on Feb. 9 his exchange tour on behalf of the "1948 Ned Depinet Drive," of which he is co-captain with WALTER E. BRANSON and NAT LEVY.

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DAVID E. ROSE, JOSEPH MANKIEWICZ, PEGGY CUMMINS, JEAN PIERRE AUMONT, DAVID NIVEN and MRS. NIVEN, DOUGLAS DUMBRILLE and REX HARRISON and his wife, LILLI PALMER, are among passengers due here today from Europe on the *SS Queen Elizabeth*.

•

DANNY KAYE will fly to London today for a four-week engagement at the Palladium Theatre in London, commencing Feb. 2. He planned originally to sail tomorrow on the *SS Queen Elizabeth*.

•

MILT HOSSFIELD, film buyer for Fox Intermountain, Denver, has resigned and left for Los Angeles, with his duties being added to ROBERT SELIG, assistant to the president.

•

FRANK MARSHALL and LOU SIEGEL, Warner theatre executives, left New York yesterday for Washington and will return Monday.

•

ALFRED CROWN, Samuel Goldwyn Productions foreign sales manager, will leave here by plane Sunday for Mexico.

•

JOHN FARROW, Paramount director, and his actress-wife MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN, have become parents of a daughter, their fifth child.

•

WALTER GOULD, United Artists foreign manager, is en route to Mexico City for a 10-day visit on company business.

•

ADOLPH ZUKOR, Paramount board chairman, and MRS. ZUKOR, will leave New York today for Hollywood.

•

PAUL HOLLISTER, RKO Radio publicity director, will leave Hollywood for New York over the weekend.

•

ARTHUR GREENBLATT, Screen Guild's Eastern sales manager, is expected back here Monday from Detroit.

'Dimes' Collections Start in Theatres

Theatre collections in the 1948 "March of Dimes" campaign will take place in several thousand theatres for one week, starting tomorrow.

The drive officially got under way in New York at a recent open-air rally on the steps of the Sub-Treasury here, at which John Garfield, Nina Foch, Georgia Gibbs, Larry Adler, Robert Merrill, Roland Young and Ed Wynn appeared.

News Briefs . . .

MAX YOUNGSTEIN, Eagle-Lion director of advertising-publicity, has been selected by the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' nominating committee, to succeed Arnold Stoltz as AMPA president. Nominating committee's selections are tantamount to election.

Other officers nominated are: David Blum, Loew International, as vice-president, succeeding Phil Williams; Harry McWilliams, Columbia, treasurer, succeeding Max Stein, and Evelyn Koleman, Republic, secretary, succeeding Marguerite Wayburn. The following were selected for the board of directors: Ray Gallagher, Hap Hadley, Blanche Livingston, Vincent Trotta and Charles Alicoate.

Nominees' names will be offered to the AMPA membership at a luncheon-meeting today at Headquarters Restaurant here. Elections will be held in a month.

Film Classics Buys 24 Features And 4 Serials from Realart

Film Classics has acquired 24 Westerns and four serials from Realart for reissues.

The Westerns include 10 Johnny Mack Browns, eight Ken Maynards and six Bob Bakers. The serials are "Riders of Death Valley," "Gang Busters," "Junior G-Men" and "Oregon Trail."

International Ticket Co. to Observe 50th Year in 1948

International Ticket Company, Newark, this year will observe the 50th year of its existence. The firm will reach the half-century mark with Charles Manshel, its founder, still active in its conduct.

International operates sales offices in New York and other cities.

Skouras Aids Safety

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 22,—Following acceptance of the National Safety Council citation for his outstanding work in promoting safety throughout the nation, Charles P. Skouras, president of National Theatres, announced that all Fox West Coast houses will exhibit half-minute trailers on safety during the next 18 weeks, with all National houses adopting the campaign later.

20th-Fox, SPG to Arbitrate Tuesday

Twentieth Century-Fox will be the first company to participate in arbitration in the Screen Publicists Guild wage dispute, with hearings starting here on Tuesday before the American Arbitration Association. The decision will be retroactive to last September when the wage reopening clause became effective. The union is asking a 30 per cent increase.

Acquire Interest in Flexer Houses

MEMPHIS, Jan. 22.—M. A. Lightman and his associates, Herb Kohn and Ed Sapinsley, have acquired an interest in Dave Flexer's Tennessee and Mississippi theatres. They also will book and buy for the houses.

SETTING of Enterprise's "Arch of Triumph" for advanced admission prices has removed the picture from a booking by Radio City Music Hall here, it is understood. G. S. Eyssell, president and managing director of the Hall, opposes raising the house's prices, it is said.

George Schaefer, distribution chief of Enterprise, and Gradwell L. Sears, president of United Artists, which will release the picture, are reported to be looking for another New York first-run for an opening at upped prices, with the Astor viewed as the likeliest possibility.

SIMPP Executive Committee Drive To Raise Independents' "Take"

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—The executive committee of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers has announced a vigorous drive to "restore freedom of enterprise and gain a rightful share of box-office income for independents," declaring that "the independent producer was never closer to a free market for his pictures or in a better position to receive the full support which his pictures deserve from the public."

Korda's 'Anna Karenina' Has Celebrity-studded Premiere

LONDON, Jan. 22.—Sir Alexander Korda's "Anna Karenina," starring Vivien Leigh, Sir Ralph Richardson and Kieron Moore, was given its premiere here last night before an audience which consisted of members of the diplomatic corps, the British Cabinet and other celebrities. Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, attended the opening. Also on hand were J. Arthur Rank and John Davis, managing director of the Rank Organization.

Albany Theatre Files Clearance Complaint Against Paramount

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 22.—Capitol City Theatre Co., operating the Eagle here, yesterday filed with the American Arbitration Association a clearance complaint against Paramount, claiming the house is subject to "double clearance" after the Delaware, a Warner neighborhood house, and the Colonial, operated by Freedman and Orson.

Six United Nations Films

Six United Nations films were completed in 1947: "The Peoples' Charter," "Searchlight on the Nations," "Maps We Live By," "Clearing the Way," "First Steps" and a theatrical trailer for the United Nations Appeal for Children. Contracts were signed for 14 film productions in 10 countries.

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN *presents*
CARY GRANT · LORETTA YOUNG · DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK · Ann TODD · Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN · Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper *present* Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
JOHN WAYNE · LARAINE DAY in
TYCOON
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

PAULETTE GODDARD
"AN IDEAL HUSBAND"
A 20th Century-Fox Release in Technicolor
PLUS ON STAGE
ILONA MASSEY · ROSARIO & ANTONIO
VASSO ARGYRIS · ROLLY ROLLS
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR 20th CENTURY-FOX 7th Ave. & 47th St.

WALT DISNEY'S
Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

BURT LANCASTER
LIZABETH SCOTT
In HAL WALLIS' production
"I WALK ALONE" A Paramount Picture
In Person
ANDY RUSSELL
HELEN FORREST
DICK WESSON · MACK & DESMOND
and the Extra Added Attraction!
JERRY WALD AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

The THEATRE GUILD *presents*
the RKO RADIO PICTURE
"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA"
TWICE DAILY 2:30 and 8:30 PM
3 PERFORMANCES SUNDAY at 2:00, 5:15 and 8:30 PM
RESERVED SEATS ONLY
GOLDEN THEATRE 45th St. W. of B'way

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Dan was meant to make love to "MARGIE"



In the picture that's meant for BOXOFFICE

The love . . . the songs . . . the laughte



Jeanne

("MARGIE")

CRAIN

YOU MEANT

OSCAR LEVANT · BARBAR

Directed by LLOYD BACO

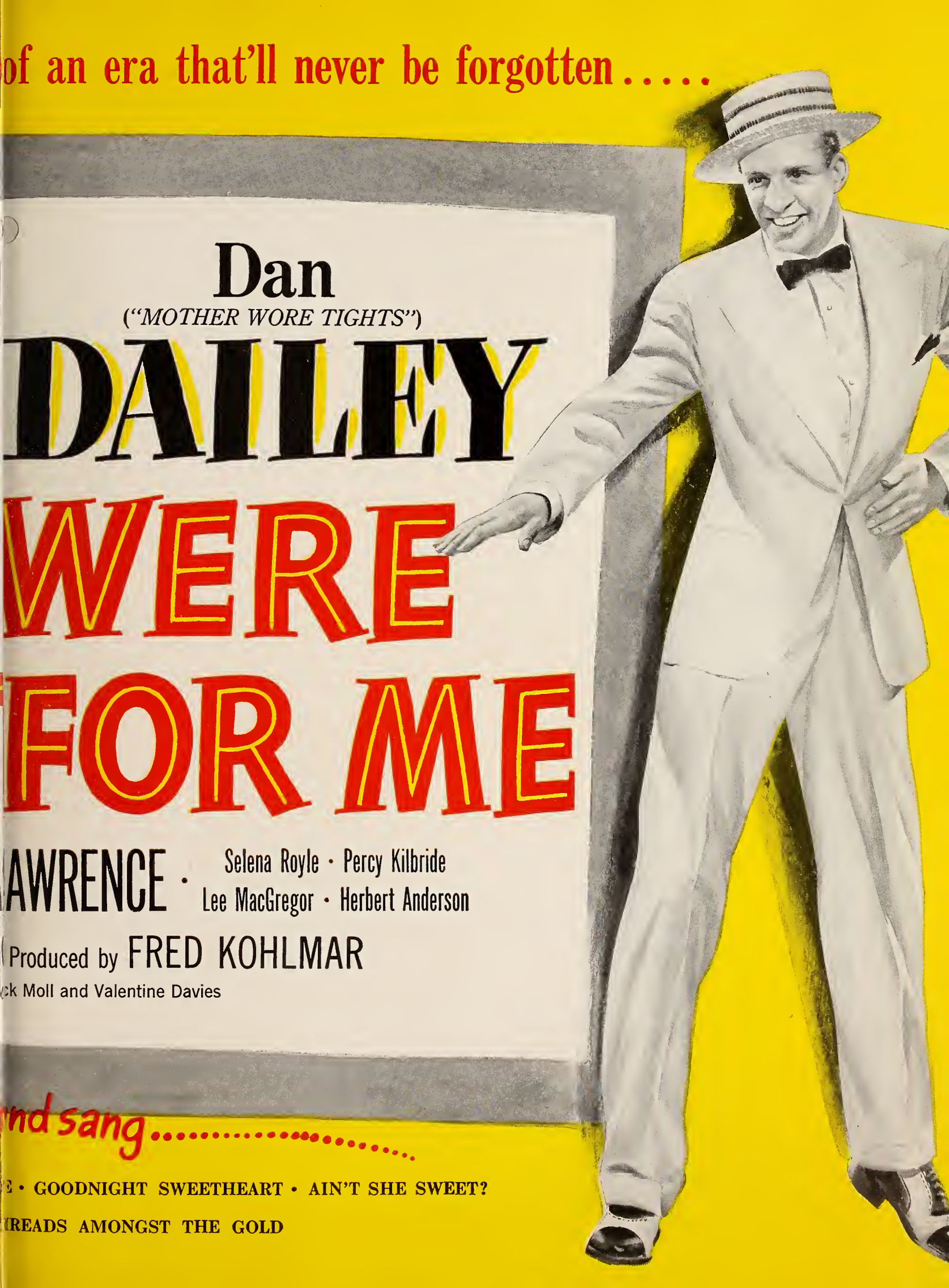
Original Screen Play

. . . . . When everybody went collegiat

IF I HAD YOU • AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' • YOU WERE MEANT FO

I'LL GET BY • CRAZY RHYTHM • SILV

of an era that'll never be forgotten.....



Dan

("MOTHER WORE TIGHTS")

DAILEY

WERE FOR ME

AWRENCE · Selena Royle · Percy Kilbride
Lee MacGregor · Herbert Anderson

Produced by FRED KOHLMAR

ck Moll and Valentine Davies

nd sang.....

E • GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART • AIN'T SHE SWEET?

READS AMONGST THE GOLD

...and meant for showmen everywhere ...from...

20th CENTURY-FOX



"CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE"

TECHNICOLOR

Darryl F. Zanuck presents "CAPTAIN FROM CASTILE" • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Starring TYRONE POWER with JEAN PETERS, CESAR ROMERO, JOHN SUTTON, LEE J. COBB, Antonio Moreno, Thomas Gomez, Alon Mowbray, Barbara Lawrence, George Zucco, Roy Roberts, Marc Lowrence • Directed by HENRY KING • Produced by LAMAR TROTTI • Screen Play by Lomar Trotti • From the Novel by Samuel Shellabarger



"DAISY KENYON"

JOAN CRAWFORD, DANA ANDREWS, HENRY FONDA in "DAISY KENYON" with Ruth Warrick, Martha Stewart, Peggy Ann Garner, Connie Marshall, Nicholas Joy, Art Baker Produced and Directed by OTTO PREMINGER • Screen Play by David Hertz • Based on the Novel by Elizabeth Joneway



"GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT"

Darryl F. Zanuck presents GREGORY PECK, DOROTHY McGUIRE, JOHN GARFIELD in Laura Z. Hobson's "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" with Celeste Holm, Anne Revere, June Hovoc, Albert Dekker, Jane Wyatt, Deon Stockwell, Sam Jaffe • Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK Screen Ploy by MOSS HART • Directed by ELIA KAZAN



"CALL NORTHSIDE 777"

JAMES STEWART in "CALL NORTHSIDE 777" with RICHARD CONTE, LEE J. COBB, HELEN WALKER and Betty Garde, Kasia Orzazewski, Joanne de Bergh, Howard Smith, Moroni Olsen, John McIntire, Paul Harvey • Directed by HENRY HATHAWAY • Produced by OTTO LANG • Screen Play by Jerome Cady and Jay Dratler • Adaptation by Leonard Hoffman and Quentin Reynolds • Based on Articles by James P. McGuire



"SUMMER LIGHTNING"

TECHNICOLOR

JUNE HAVER in "SUMMER LIGHTNING" • Color by TECHNICOLOR • With LON McCALLISTER and WALTER BRENNAN, ANNE REVERE, NATALIE WOOD, Robert Karnes, Henry Hull, Tom Tully • Directed by F. HUGH HERBERT • Produced by WALTER MOROSCO • Screen Play by F. Hugh Herbert • From a Novel by George Agnew Chamberlain



"FURY AT FURNACE CREEK"

"FURY AT FURNACE CREEK" starring VICTOR MATURE with COLEEN GRAY, GLENN LANGAN, REGINALD GARDINER, Albert Dekker, Fred Clark, Charles Kemper, Robert Warwick, George Cleveland, Roy Roberts, Frank Orth, Willard Robertson • Directed by BRUCE HUMBERSTONE • Produced by FRED KOHLMAR • Written by Charles G. Booth Additional Dialogue by Winston Miller • Suggested by a story by David Garth

Sees Palestine as Place to Produce

Palestine was characterized as a highly favorable site for American film companies seeking a place to produce abroad, by Nathan Silberberg, head of Nathan Film, a film exporting company in Tel-Aviv. Silberberg, who arrived here recently to see new pictures and line up product deals, pointed out that "everything in Palestine is favorable to production," including climate and settings, as well as a large pool of artists and technicians.

Silberberg asserted that there now are two studios in Palestine and plans are underway to construct another in Nathania. Most of the films made there today are shorts and documentaries.

Silberberg disclosed that there are about 120 film houses in Palestine and approximately 80 per cent of their product comes from America. He pointed out that in recent months there has been a 50 per cent decline in grosses because of the political strife. Discussing film tastes of audiences there, he said that the Jewish population prefers higher-type dramas and musicals whereas the Arabs are mostly partial to outdoor action films.

Silberberg expects to return to Palestine in about two months.

Illinois Variety Club Installations Tonight

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Walter Immerman, Balaban and Katz executive, will be inaugurated as chief barker of Variety Club of Illinois at installation ceremonies tomorrow night at its headquarters at the Sheraton Hotel here. Al Raymer will assume his new duties as chairman of the house committee, while Irving Mack and Bill Baker will take office as co-chairmen of the club.

Among the 500 persons expected to attend will be Gov. Dwight Green, Mayor Kennelly, Richard Finnegan who is managing editor of the *Chicago Times*, and stage, screen and radio personalities.

Entertainment Program Set For Variety Clubs Convention

MIAMI BEACH, Jan. 22.—An extensive entertainment program has been prepared for Variety Club International's annual convention, to be held here April 12-19, at the Roney Plaza Hotel.

On April 12 there will be a get-acquainted party at the Roney Plaza. A Jai Alai night at Biscayne Fronton will be staged on April 13. Scheduled for April 14 is a South Seas party on Key Biscayne. On the program for April 15 are a trip to Tropical Park race track and a dance at the Roney Plaza. On the night of April 16 convention guests will attend dog races. An Aloha party will be held on April 17.

McCabe to Ettinger

Tom McCabe, who for the past three-and-a-half years was with the Ted Bates Advertising Agency's press department, has been added to the New York staff of Margaret Ettinger and Co., film publicists. McCabe was associated variously with Richard Condon, Inc., 20th Century-Fox and United Artists.

Walsh May Stay Out Of Coast Wage Talks

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Current negotiations between IATSE studio locals and producers on a cost-of-living increase for some 15,000 studio employes will probably not develop sufficiently during the next two weeks to warrant participation by "IA" international president Richard F. Walsh, who has arrived here from New York for a two-week stay, Roy Brewer, "IA" international representative for Hollywood, states. Negotiations, he said, are now at about the midway point.

Brewer described Walsh's visit as being a checkup preliminary to the holding of the American Federation of Labor's executive council meeting and a subsequent meeting of the "IA" board. Date for the board meeting has not been set.

Republic's Objection Barred in Philon Suit

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Republic today entered objections to interrogatories filed by Seymour Simon, attorney for plaintiff Lewis B. Philon, in the latter's anti-trust suit involving major film and independent companies. Judge John Barnes of Federal District Court overruled the defendants' objections and ordered them to answer all interrogatories within 60 days.

One of the main issues in the plaintiff's questioning calls for a statement of film rental on each picture released since Jan. 1, 1945.

Slowdown at RKO Mexican Studio

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 22.—The costly studios at Churubusco, local suburb, built and equipped by RKO Radio and Mexican interests, and headed by Emilio Azcarraga, are only functioning partially because of the demand by the Picture Production Workers Union that for every picture made there in English, one must be made in Spanish. The demand has made some Hollywood producers change their minds about producing in Mexico.

Ross-Bart Buys Four Cummins' Theatres

Samuel Cummins, general manager of Pix Theatre Co., has sold four Virginia theatres to Ross-Bart Corp., controlled by George Langbart and Harry Rosenberg, both of New York. The theatres are Port and High, Portsmouth, and Pix and Fairmount, Norfolk.

The circuit will be operated under the direction of Langbart, who has resigned as division manager of Randforce Amusement Corp. in New York. He had been with Randforce for 20 years.

'Fugitive' Stirs Press

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 22.—Local newspapers are campaigning against "The Fugitive", which stars Dolores del Rio and was made in Mexico by John Ford, and is now being exhibited in this country, on the ground that it disparages Mexicans. The papers are criticizing the government's film censorship department, chief of which is Antonio Castro Leal, for approving it and are urging President Miguel Aleman to view the picture and rule whether it is suitable for Mexicans.

Grainger, Walton at 3 Sales Meetings

James R. Grainger, Republic executive vice-president in charge of distribution, will leave here today for Chicago, where he will preside at a two-day sales meeting to be held tomorrow and Sunday at the Blackstone Hotel. Sales personnel from the following branches will be present: Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines and St. Louis.

Edward L. Walton, assistant general sales manager, who has been holding meetings in Denver, Salt Lake City, Portland and Seattle, will attend the Chicago sessions, following which Grainger and Walton will proceed to Detroit, where they will meet with the Detroit sales force on Monday and Tuesday.

Division manager James V. O'Gara will join Grainger and Walton in Cleveland for meetings there with the Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh sales personnel at the Statler Hotel on Wednesday and Thursday.

Maury Nunes, 50, Succumbs on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Funeral services for Maury Nunes, 50, former exhibitor and for the past two years an independent producer, will be held in Brookline, Mass. Nunes, who died here yesterday, leaves the widow, a son and daughter, a brother and three sisters.

Telenews Reels Initiated in N. Y.

The new Telenews-International News Service newsreel for television has made its debut in New York over DuMont station WABD, first of a series of weekly 20-minute newsreel programs that will be featured regularly on television Tuesday nights. The Telenews-INS film presented 12 different news events.

It is said to have marked the first time in newsreel production that an established newsreel organization (Telenews Productions, Inc.) has joined with a worldwide press service to provide current pictorial news programs in motion pictures for showing to the public.

NBC Chicago Video Plans Moved Ahead

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—NBC's television plans for Chicago have been moved ahead four months, and the network expects to be on the air with station WNBY, its Mid-western video outlet, by Sept. 1, 1948, it has been announced by E. I. Showerman, NBC vice-president in charge of the Central division. This supersedes an earlier plan to be on the air by the year's end.

Max J. Jelin, 40

Max J. Jelin, 40, theatrical producer who formerly held extensive motion picture interests in New Jersey, died at his home here yesterday in an explosion that rocked his apartment. Police said it was suicide. Survivors include the widow and his mother.

M·G·M TRADE SHOW

★

"PICCADILLY INCIDENT"

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TERRITORIES ONLY

TUES. JANUARY 27

9:30 A. M.

★

M·G·M SCREEN ROOM

630 Ninth Avenue — New York City

Canadian Workers Average $37 Weekly

Ottawa, Jan. 22.—The employment and payroll statistics branch of the Canadian government reports that a nationwide survey shows the average weekly wage in Canadian theatres amounts to $37.47.

Johnston Replies

(*Continued from page* 1)

American companies could operate in Britain only at a heavy loss," Johnston stated. He pointed out that British expenditures for American films were only a small percentage of total import costs.

Wilson's statement of yesterday declared: "I confidently tell Hollywood that if they believe they can squeeze us into modifying our attitude on the *ad valorem* tax, they back a 'loser'."

Admitting that nothing could be gained by "transatlantic controversy," Johnston said he could not permit to go unchallenged the statement that U. S. producers have not offered alternative plans.

"We have," he said. "The sensible way to reach a settlement is for both sides to sit down together and work out an alternative which will enable Britain to conserve dollars and the American industry to do business on a fair basis. On our part, the door remains wide open to working out an alternative."

May Call Eric Johnston Before Nixon House Unit

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, may be called to testify before the Nixon legislation sub-committee of the House Un-American Activities Committee, according to committee sources.

Johnston's name has been suggested by one of the members of the full committee to appear before the Nixon Committee which will open hearings on Feb. 5 on legislation to curb the Communist Party in this country.

Hardest Hit in U.K.

(*Continued from page* 1)

hibitors are showing satisfaction with the speech which Harold Wilson, British Board of Trade president, made in Commons yesterday. Wilson held that the American companies do not understand Britain's critical position and warned that Britain will not be "squeezed" into giving ground.

Exhibitors in general here accepted Wilson's speech with: "Well, we now know where we are." They had been hoping for some sort of intervention to save them from the last-minute consequences of the *ad valorem* tax, but now are making plans to meet new conditions, particularly a product shortage.

The view has been taken in some industry quarters here that the *ad valorem* tax situation will sooner or later be thrashed out between top U. S. and British government figures now that Wilson has plainly stated the British stand.

Two Get Eagle-Lion Posts

Eagle-Lion has appointed Frank L. Norris as office manager and head booker for Kansas City and Joel Bluestone as salesman in New Orleans.

Reviews

"Panhandle"

(*Champion-Allied Artists*)

Hollywood, Jan. 22

TIP-TOP in every department, this Champion production starring Rod Cameron is a powerful picturization of the type of story in which the late William S. Hart won the spurs of cinema immortality. It is expertly directed by Lesley Selander, brilliantly photographed in sepia-tone, and contains all the requirements of Western fans of all ages. It is first grade material for all theatres where major Westerns thrive.

Tall, composed Cameron portrays with compelling understatement the role of John Sands, a retired outlaw with a price on his head, who emerges from seclusion to seek and take care of his brother's killer. This entails riding into a town dominated by Matt Garson (Reed Hadley) and pursuing his quest in the face of elaborate resistance set up by the latter, who knows from past experience that Sands is a fast man with a gun. Attempts are made to bushwack Sands, to provoke him into fights for purposes of murder, and finally to shoot him down on the spot where his brother was similarly dealt with. All this is handled in the best tradition of the authentic West, in contrast to the quickie style of treatment, and the result is solidly and convincingly entertaining.

Cathy Downs and Anne Gwynne, in castings of far more importance than are usually given the distaff side in Westerns, contribute importantly to the whole. Production is by John C. Champion and Blake Edwards, the two also having collaborated on the screenplay, and the latter playing a role in the picture.

Running time, 84 minutes. General audience clasification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Stage to Mesa City"

(*PRC-Eagle-Lion*)

"STAGE to Mesa City" is one pursuit after another, giving it the very maximum of action. The Western concentrates strictly on movement, with little attention to story material, which is just as well since the production appears to be aimed at youthful audiences.

Players and horses are driven to the limit in working out the plot to seize a mortgaged stagecoach line. To get hold of the property the villains make riding in the vehicles precarious, but the granting of a mail contract promises to be the salvation of the line. The baddies, of course, go all out to prevent the contract from being awarded. Credit for foiling their plans goes to "Lash" LaRue, a U. S. deputy, and Al (Fuzzy) St. John, his partner. They get their main support from Jennifer Holt, George Chesebro and Brad Slaven. Jerry Thomas produced and Ray Taylor directed, from a screenplay by Joseph F. Poland.

Running time, 52 minutes. General audience classification. Release set for February.

P.E.L.

Rank, E-L Linked to Mexican Studio Deal

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 22. — Plans are being made by an unnamed English film producer to establish a studio for its own use in or about this city, announces Jose Angel Ceniceros, chairman of the Mexican government's Foreign and Domestic Capital Investments Board, recently created by President Miguel Aleman to channel investments in Mexico.

Reports along Film Row are that it may be either the J. Arthur Rank interests, whose pictures are now distributed in Mexico by Universal-International, or Eagle-Lion, which recently opened a distribution office here.

Canadian Pioneers

(*Continued from page* 1)

son succeeds Oscar R. Hanson in the post.

In an unexpected announcement, Ray Lewis of this city, only woman member, revealed her retirement as secretary in order to enable her to go to Italy in May to produce a picture there. Her successor is Charles Mavety, also of Toronto. .

Ben Cronk is vice-president.

Held at the King Edward Hotel here, the meeting was also informed that the club's benevolent fund has reached a total of $17,500 and that membership, with the induction of 16 new members today, is now 456 in this country.

Rathvon, Warner

(*Continued from page* 1)

bert Warner gave 6,000 shares of Warner $5 par comon to charity, and bought 4,000 shares. Warner's holdings were reported at 432,000 shares, and the holdings for the Albert Warner Trust at 21,000 shares.

Jack Cohn, Columbia Pictures, is listed as holding 48,969 shares of Columbia common. Jack Cohn Trusts sold 1,000 shares of common, with 25,319 shares remaining.

Maurice Newton, director of Paramount Pictures, is listed as having bought 100 shares of Paramount $1 par common and having made a gift of 90 shares. Newton's total is reported at 18,630 shares, and the total for the Maurice Newton Trust at 18,380 shares.

Daniel M. Shaeffer, director of Universal, is listed for the sale of 100 shares of Universal common, with a total of 16,307 shares remaining.

Also reported in the SEC statement is a gift to charity made by Universal president Nate Blumberg, who gave 100 shares of Universal common, leaving his holdings at 28,400 shares.

Mormon Church Has New Censor Board

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 22. — The Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) has started a censorship board.

It will be controlled by a board of what pictures can and cannot be shown.

Short Subject

"The Cold War"

(*March of Time—20th-Fox*)

The sullenly violent, although relatively bloodless "cold war" being waged today in Europe between political factions, is examined by March of Time, with France having been selected as the site for the camera's vivid depiction of the struggle for power which is being participated in by Communists, de Gaullists, Moderates and Social Democrats. The economic impact of the struggle on the French people themselves is graphically demonstrated as the subject penetrates the daily routine of a lower middle-class family whose war-bred poverty, MOT concludes, can be alleviated by the Marshall Plan.

This is a provocative, thoroughly engrossing film. It probes sufficiently below the surface of Europe's stormy political waters to give American audiences a good insight into what is going on. It should be received appreciatively by patrons. Running time, 18½ minutes.

Delay Trials of 10

(*Continued from page* 1)

House Un-American Activities Committee's hearings on Hollywood. Committee officials have stated that the "second phase" hearings will not open until the court has decided at least one of the 10 cases. Lawson's trial was originally scheduled for Feb. 9.

Attorneys for the 10 have been given until Jan. 30 to file a double motion to inspect the minutes of the Grand Jury which indicted the 10 and to dismiss the 10 indictments. Government attorneys must answer by Feb. 10 and the motion will be argued on Feb. 13.

Other dates in the revised trial schedule are: Dalton Trumbo, March 3; Albert Maltz, March 10; Alvah Bessie, March 15; Samuel Ornitz, March 17; Herbert Biberman, March 22; Edward Dmytryk, March 24; Adrian Scott, March 29; Ring Lardner, Jr., March 31; Lester Cole, April 5.

Dalton Trumbo Sues Loew's To Have His Job Restored

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 22.—Dalton Trumbo, one of the 10 writers and directors indicted for contempt in the Un-American Activities Committee hearings, has filed suit in Federal Court demanding that Loew's restore his job under the terms of a contract running to Feb. 19, 1950.

The writer says the studio was committed to pay him $75,000 per script and furnish assignments every four weeks if scripts were finished that fast. The suit demands that the company fulfill its contract or pay him the amount he would have earned under it.

$2,676,487 Loaned By Mexican Bank

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 22.—The Banco Nacional Cinematografico, the film trade's own bank, which was recently nationalized for strengthening, reported in its Dec. 31 balance sheet total loans, credits and discounts of $2,676,487 in 1947. At the end of the year, the bank had $5,350,000 of its bonds in circulation.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 17 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1948 TEN CENTS

TOA Planning Meetings with Ascap on Tax

Negotiations Resumed Here in a Few Weeks

Plans for a series of meetings to be held with Ascap in the next couple of weeks in a resumption of negotiations on proposals to modify the Society's new formula on music tax rates, were discussed here on Friday by Theatre Owners of America leaders at a luncheon conference at the Metropolitan Club. Conferees were: Ted Gamble, president of the TOA; Si Fabian, chairman of the executive committee and regional vice-president, and Robert W. Coyne, executive director.

The conferees also laid plans for discussions in Washington with Representative Knudsen and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, of which he is chairman, on proposals to reduce the present 20 per cent ticket tax to the pre-war level of 10 per cent.

First meeting with Knudsen and members of his committee is sched-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Screen Publications Form Association

A group of publishing companies has formed the Association of Screen Magazine Publishers, Inc., with headquarters in New York. Although the companies publish other types of periodicals as well, they are represented in the screen field by a total of 12 monthly publications. Primary purpose of the new association will be to study common advertising prob-

(*Continued on page 6*)

A. W. Smith Reports Key Field Changes

Andy W. Smith, Jr., general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, left here for the Coast over the weekend where he will confer with Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast Theatres, and the latter's associates. He was accompanied by Frank Carroll of the home office distribution department.

Before departing, Smith disclosed

(*Continued on page 4*)

UA Board to Weigh British Production Program Tomorrow

Plans under which United Artists would launch in England a seven-year production program involving five pictures a year, will go before the UA board tomorrow for approval, Arthur W. Kelly, UA executive vice-president, revealed here Friday on his return from London on the *SS Queen Elizabeth*.

Under the plan which has been approved by the British government, undisclosed British interests would form a company that would finance the deal while UA would furnish production assistance, distribution "and the know-how," Kelly explained. Each picture would cost about $1,000,000, he said, and American producers and scripts would be used, along with some American actors.

Kelly disclosed that two UA pictures just completed in England are "Just Williams" and "Brass Monkey."

Kelly said he would attend the Motion Picture Export Association meeting here tomorrow.

Another arrival from England was

(*Continued on page 6*)

$3,850,000 Loan to Mono.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—Steve Broidy, president of Monogram Pictures, and George D. Burrows, executive vice-president and treasurer, have signed a new loan agreement with the Security First National Bank of California. Under its terms, it runs for one year, is revolving in form, and the company will have available a bank credit of $3,850,000, consisting of direct loans and loans to its producers. It is covered by the guarantee of Monogram Pictures Corp. Notes will bear interest at the rate of four and one-half per cent.

"Due to the revolving feature of the credit, it is anticipated that Monogram will use for production purposes, during the current year, an aggregate of

(*Continued on page 6*)

State Censor Rejects 'Devil in the Flesh'

Producer Paul Graetz's French-made "Devil in the Flesh" ("Diable au Corps"), which was brought to the U. S. in association with Universal-International, was refused a New York State license at the weekend by the motion picture (censor) division of the State Education Department, it was disclosed here on

(*Continued on page 6*)

Fire Underwriters Revise Bldg. Code

Revisions which will have a far-reaching effect on motion picture theatres are being made in the present building and safety code of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The board expects to have drafts of the revised code completed before the spring, and plans to send copies to the various exhibitor organizations for comments and suggestions.

The board's present code has been adopted by many municipalities in the U. S.

Bill Would Permit Vote on Ticket Tax

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 25.—A bill to amend the New York State law which enables municipal governments to impose special levies, including a five per cent amusement tax, has been introduced in the legislature by Assemblyman Orlo Brees, Republican of Endicott. It calls for a referendum when empowered city and county governing bodies vote special taxes.

Brees, a staunch opponent of the enabling act when it was before the legislature last year, said his bill is a result of conferences with upstate Republican legislators. A referendum provision, he believes, will make the special tax program more acceptable.

Gov. Dewey, in his message to the legislature this year, recommended extension of the permissive taxing power to areas not included presently.

Film Censors for Western Australia

By FRANK O'CONNELL

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan. 20 (By Airmail).—West Australia now has a Film Censorship Act, passed in conformity with the uniform censorship legislation provisions agreed to by the various states at a Premiers' conference held in 1946.

The clause which would make it an offense for an exhibitor to permit a child under 16 years of age in a theatre where a film not classed for general exhibition is playing, was withdrawn because of exhibitor hostility.

The act also provides for censorship of advertising matter.

Provisions of the act are similar to those in Tasmania and Victoria and also the bill now before the Queensland Parliament. It is expected that the bill to be introduced in New South Wales will parallel these measures.

Advance Talks On British Tax Deadlock

MPEA to Meet 2 Days Ahead, Tomorrow, in N.Y.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25. — Determined, apparently, to lose no time in reinforcing its attempts to unravel industry complications abroad, the Motion Picture Export Association board of directors and representatives of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers have advanced to Tuesday the meeting scheduled originally for next Thursday, and have switched the meeting locale from Washington to New York.

The British *ad valorem* tax impasse and European frozen funds are expected to highlight discussions. The session, which was supposed originally to have been divided into two parts—a day meeting of the MPEA executive committee and an evening gathering of the MPEA board—now has been telescoped into a single "full-dress" meeting of both groups.

The meeting will probably get under way immediately following MPEA president Eric A. Johnston's Tuesday speaking engagement at the New

(*Continued on page 6*)

Sees Nationalization Danger for UK Films

The prediction that the British motion picture industry "will be in some form of nationalization" within a year unless the *ad valorem* tax situation is solved was made by producer Joseph Mankiewicz here Friday on his arrival from England on the *SS Queen Elizabeth*. In England, Mankiewicz made one film, "Escape," for 20th Century-Fox.

Mankiewicz asserted that both the United States and England "must treat the tax situation with more imagination and mutual trust." He asserted that "it may be smart for Amer-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Vogel Names Crouch Division Manager

Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president and general manager of Loew's Theatres, has named Orville Crouch division manager of Loew's Cleveland division.

Charles Raymond, presently heading the Cleveland division, is being transferred to Washington, where he will assist Carter Barron.

Williams Is Named Acting AMPA Head

Phil Williams, who had resigned as vice-president of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, here, withdrew his resignation at the weekend at the request of the board of directors, and will serve as acting president during the absence of president Arnold Stoltz who will leave New York this week for an extended stay in Hollywood. Max E. Youngstein has been nominated for the presidency, but his term will not begin until May.

Following an AMPA membership meeting here on Friday, Williams announced the organization will meet on Feb. 20 at the Town Hall Club here under the chairmanship of Youngstein, and will meet again on March 26 at the same place for a discussion of "Women in Movie Advertising," under the co-chairmanship of Marjorie Harker, Evelyn Koleman and Blanche Livingston. At Friday's meeting Stoltz disclosed that during the past year AMPA distributed $1,915 to aid to the needy.

Harry Keller, 52, Was Universal Publicist

Harry Keller, 52, former Universal publicist, died at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati on Thursday, following an operation, according to word received here by the Universal-International home office. Funeral services will be held today at Dalton's Funeral Home in Floral Park, L. I., with interment tomorrow at Greenfield Cemetery in Hempstead.

Keller, who served as regional director of the War Activities Committee of the film industry during the war and who held many other publicity posts, is survived by his mother, Mrs. Helen Keller, and three sisters.

Jack Sichelman, 63, 30 Years with 20th

Jack Sichelman, assistant to Clarence Hill, manager of branch operations for 20th Century-Fox, here, died on Friday after an illness of two weeks. Sichelman was 63 and had been with the company for 30 years. He is survived by the widow, Rose, and three sons, Ira, Jesse and Elliott.

Funeral services took place yesterday at the Riverside Memorial Chapel. Interment was at Beth David Cemetery, Elmont, L. I.

Joins de Rochemont

David Kummins, formerly supervising film editor with M-G-M International, has joined Louis de Rochemont Associates, Inc., in the same capacity. He will first work on "Your World and Mine," series of 36 educational films on world geography which Rochemont is producing for United World Films.

2 More Video Applicants

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Additional applications for commercial television stations have been filed with the Federal Communications Commission. E. D. Rivers, Jr., Atlanta, has filed for channel eight, and Variety Broadcasting, Dallas, for channel two.

Personal Mention

N. PETER RATHVON, RKO president, left Hollywood at the weekend for New York.

•

ARNOLD PRESSBURGER, producer-director, and MARY CHRISTIANS, actress, are among passengers who sailed for Europe over the weekend on the *SS Queen Elizabeth.*

•

FLOYD FITZSIMMONS, M-G-M exploitation representative in Albany and Buffalo, has been appointed publicity director of the Salvation Army's maintenance campaign in Albany.

•

LEW SCHREIBER, executive assistant to 20th Century-Fox production executive DARRYL F. ZANUCK, is in town from the Coast.

•

MAURY B. ORR, United Artists Western sales manager, is due in Chicago today on a tour of Midwest exchanges.

•

FRED BUND, head of the Army Motion Picture Service, has returned to Washington from a survey of AMPS operations in the Pacific.

•

JOE BOYLE, manager of Loew's Poli-Broadway, Norwich, Conn., is observing his 20th year with the organization.

•

HENRY WOODS, formerly field representative for M-G-M, has joined the staff of Connecticut Theatre Candy Co., New Haven.

•

HARRY JONES, 20th Century-Fox office manager in Charlotte, is in the hospital with pneumonia.

•

HARRY MANDEL, RKO Theatres advertising-publicity director, has left Chicago for Tampa.

•

KARL HARTE has been appointed Warner booker in Charlotte, succeeding DENNIS SCRUGGS, resigned.

•

J. MYER SCHINE, president of Schine Circuit, and JOHN MAY, treasurer, are in Los Angeles from Gloversville, N. Y.

•

ALICE NEAL, Warner office manager in Omaha, will observe her 15th anniversary with the company on Feb. 5.

•

BORGE IVERSON has resigned as manager of the State Theatre, Omaha, and as publicity manager for the R. D. Goldberg circuit.

•

ALBERTA PIKE, Fox Denver Theatres publicity director, is being urged to run for Congress on the Democratic ticket in Colorado.

•

JOSEPH WHITE, former manager of the Wade Theatre, Dallas, is in San Antonio.

•

MARY PICKFORD will leave here today for California.

•

GEORGE WEST, Monogram producer, is in Chicago from New York.

•

M. P. KING has purchased the Shelby Theatre in Shelby, Neb.

G. L. CARRINGTON, Altec president, and E. Z. WALTERS, comptroller, are due here today from the Coast.

•

ALAN SHAW has been promoted to salesman from booker for Screen Classics in Cleveland, while MARY DREWS has been promoted from assistant to head booker.

•

TED SCHLANGER, Warner zone manager in Philadelphia, has announced the engagement of his daughter, MARILYN, to MICHAEL RITTENHOUSE II of Lewistown, Pa.

•

ROBERT LYNCH, M-G-M Philadelphia district manager, and WILLIAM DOWNS, Loew district manager here, are vacationing in Florida.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner vice-president and general sales manager, will return to New York today from Los Angeles.

•

C. J. FELDMAN, Universal-International Western division manager, will leave here Wednesday for a regional meeting in San Francisco.

•

DAVID A. LIPTON, Universal-International studio advertising-exploitation coordinator, returned to Hollywood from New York at the weekend.

•

HARRY MICHALSON, RKO Radio short subject sales manager and RKO Pathe president, is due back here today from the Coast.

•

TOM NEELY, National Theatre Supply manager in New Orleans, has returned to that city from a trip through his territory.

•

WALTER POWELL, former 20th Century-Fox salesman in Charlotte, has joined Screen Guild in the same capacity.

•

MARTIN SEED has resigned from the Eagle-Lion sales force in Cleveland to join ROBERT SNYDER and E. J. STUTZ in their Realart exchange.

•

FORREST M. SWIGER has been appointed Eagle-Lion salesman in Dallas and ALLAN T. TOLLEY as assistant booker for Eagle-Lion in Pittsburgh.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, head of Monogram's Southern exchanges, has returned to Atlanta from New Orleans.

•

PEARCE PARKHURST has been named publicity director for Tri-Theatres, Alliance, O.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram's Southern exchanges, is in New Orleans from Atlanta.

•

HENRY KRUMM, Selznick Releasing Organization Southern division manager, is in New York from Atlanta.

•

HARRY P. FRANKLIN, head of Goldberg Theatres, San Francisco, has become a great-grandfather.

•

L. E. GINN has purchased the Mavon Theatre in Pickens, Miss.

Newsreel Parade

PETRILLO before the House Labor Committee is a highlight of all current newsreels. Other important items include the Hitler-Stalin plan, a new supersonic speed record, sports and foshions. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 7—Petrillo defends musicians' union. Twenty men play 400 harmonicas. Supersonic rocket car. Navy fliers test immersion suits in icy waters. Basketball. Skiing.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 241—Petrillo testifies. All-harmonica orchestra. "New look" in beach mode. Rehearsal for winter Olympics. Jet-sled rides at 1,019 miles per hour.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 44—Secret Nazi papers bared. Japan makes toys out of beer cans. Anti-freeze sailor suit. New dress styles. Petrillo before Congress. Figure-skating champions.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 111—Petrillo before House Labor Committee. Rocket powered sled hits 1,019 miles per hour. Twenty German musicians play 400 harmonicas. Florida pin-up girls display latest swim suits. Ski school. Sportsmen's show at Chicago.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 46—Hitler-Stalin plan revealed. Supersonic car hits 1,019 miles per hour. Florida shows swim styles. Petrillo testifies. Mouth-organ band keeps busy. Surf carnival in Australia. Great American: Robert E. Lee.

Orders 5th-Walnut Trial Held Here

The anti-trust action brought by Fifth and Walnut, Inc., operating the Louisville Theatre, Louisville, against 11 distributors, must be tried in U. S. District Court in New York, Federal Judge Sylvester J. Ryan ruled here at the weekend.

The court's ruling was made on a motion by the defendants that the plaintiff's complaint be dismissed without prejudice to permit the suit to be brought in Federal Court in Louisville. Such a change of venure is not warranted, Judge Ryan held. Distributors' motion was inspired by a desire to avoid additional expenses which a New York trial would incur.

Suit was brought by Fifth and Walnut on the usual claim that distributors conspired to prevent the plaintiff from negotiating for first-run pictures.

Tampa Theatre Reopens

TAMPA, Jan. 25.—Following completion of a $200,000 remodeling program, the Palace Theatre here has been reopened. R. M. Daugherty is manager of Florida States Theatres, which operates the house. The interior of the theatre was completely rebuilt, he reported.

Paramount Dividend

Paramount's board of directors has declared the regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents a share on common stock, payable on March 24 to stockholders of records on March 4.

Quigley to Coast

Martin Quigley is leaving New York today for a several-week's visit in Hollywood.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address: "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo J. Sullivan, Vice-President and Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Yucca-Vine Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 120 South La Salle Street, Editorial and Advertising. Urben Farley, Advertising Representative. Washington, J. A. Otten, 2525 Ontario Road, N. W.; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager, Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

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FIFTY FIRST-RUNS REPORT HIGH-BRACKET BUSINESS!

Enthusiastic audience response greets the big Technicolor spectacle of the year — in every post-holiday holdover and new booking! Men love its rousing action, flaming adventure and unusual setting . . . Women go in a big way for its rugged men, its glowing romance — and that ultra-fashionable wardrobe of Miss Day . . . It's the kind of a MOVIE that pays off in highest fan satisfaction . . . A BIG SHOW FOR YOUR BEST PLAYING TIME!





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Produced by STEPHEN AMES • Directed by RICHARD WALLACE

Screen Play by Borden Chase and John Twist

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Coming Events

Jan. 27—Tri-State Motion Picture Theatre Owners board of directors meeting, Hotel Chisca, Memphis.

Jan. 29.—Motion Picture Theatre Owners of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois regional meeting, Hannibal, Mo.

Jan. 29—Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Virginia annual convention, John Marshall Hotel, Richmond.

Jan. 30—Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee meeting, Hotel Chisca, Memphis.

Feb. 1-3—Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina annual meet, Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte.

Feb. 3-4—Texas Theatre Owners annual convention, Adolphus Hotel, Dallas.

Feb. 16-18—Allied States Association board of directors' meeting, Hotel Statler, Washington.

Feb. 17-19—Meeting of trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, Seattle.

Rubin To Accept a Plaque for 'Yearling'

Tomorrow at a luncheon in the Waldorf-Astoria here, the Protestant Motion Picture Council will present its 1947 award for the "Picture of the Year" to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for "The Yearling." A bronze plaque, the council's first annual award, is scheduled to be presented by Mrs. Jesse M. Bader, chairman of the PMPC, to J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and counsel of Loew's.

Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, is listed as the principal speaker, to tell how anxious the industry is to continually apply self-regulation through the Production Code.

Dr. Daniel A. Poling, editor of the Christian Herald, will preside. Among those invited to the speakers' table are the Right Reverend Charles K. Gilbert, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York; Right Reverend G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist Bishop of New York; Father Patrick J. Masterson, Director of the Legion of Decency; Howard Dietz, vice-president of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; Francis Harmon, vice-president of the Motion Picture Association of America, Mrs. Daniel A. Poling, Mrs. Bader and Rubin.

'Producers for Rise In Copyright Fees'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Motion picture producers are in a favor of a pending bill to raise copyright fees from $2 to $3, A. Julian Brylawski, representing the Motion Picture Association of America, told a House Judiciary sub-committee Friday.

Brylawski said that the increase, which he termed "very moderate," was necessary to improve service in the copyright office. He pointed out that the office can get additional appropriations from Congress only by turning in more money to the Treasury, and that without added funds it is in danger of falling hopelessly behind in its work.

Brown Joins Capitol Here

Capitol Motion Picture Supply Corp. of this city has appointed Louis A. Brown sales representative.

News Briefs . . .

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, president of 20th Century-Fox Film, has agreed to serve as chairman of the New York City campaign committee of the American Overseas Aid to the United Nations Appeal for Children, headed nationally by Lee Marshall.

In accepting the chairmanship of the New York campaign, Skouras stated: "This is a campaign to provide services for millions of children all over the world. The tragic suffering of these children is fearful to contemplate. Without our help, many will die, more will grow up with twisted bodies and tortured minds, easy prey to ruthless dictatorship."

District of Columbia Calls for Stiffer Operator Examinations

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—A three-man motion picture projectionists examining board has been ordered for the District of Columbia by District commissioners. The board, which will consist of two District officials and one paid civilian licensed operator, will "aid the director of inspection in determining the qualifications of applicants for licenses."

Under police regulations, all commercial operators must obtain licenses in the District. There has always been some examining authority, but this is the first time anything has been "put down in black and white."

Bengt Janzon Film Recorder For Swedish Fete in America

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 20 (By Airmail).—Bengt Janzon, Swedish producer and director, has been chosen by the U. S. Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission as official film recorder of the June celebration in the U. S. commemorating 100 years of Swedish immigration.

Janzon will also produce and direct a documentary titled "A Swedish Century in America," telling the story of the immigration. The film will be made in Swedish and American versions.

Freak Crash at the Woods

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—A steel fire curtain which dropped in front of the screen blocking out the picture stopped the showing of "The Bishop's Wife" in the Woods Theatre at the weekend. Below-zero weather was said to be the cause when a waterpipe on the hydraulic hoisting device for the curtain froze and broke.

Two Promoted by Dezel

DETROIT, Jan. 25.—Albert Dezel Productions announces two promotions. In Cleveland, Allan Shaw, former booker, has been made salesman to cover the Toledo territory. In Cincinnati, David Litto has been appointed salesman for West Virginia and Kentucky territory.

Freeman Elected 'Dough-Guy'

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 25.—Charles Freeman has been elected "dough-guy" of Oklahoma City's Variety Club, succeeding Charles Guthrie.

Black Hills Names Booker

DENVER, Jan. 25.—Fred Brown has been made buyer and booker for the Black Hills Amusement Co.

STARTING Wednesday, the Roxy Theatre, here, will have a special children's admission price. Those under 12, who presently are charged the regular 80 cents to $1.25 scale, will be charged 50 cents, tax included, any time weekdays. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, a special children's admission of 50 cents will prevail until noon. At present children pay the regular Saturday price of 95 cents up to noon and the Sunday and holiday price of $1.25 to one P.M. Afternoon and evening prices now prevailing are $1.25-$1.50 on Saturdays and $1.50 on Sundays, and these will continue to apply to children.

Ted Gamble to Be the Principal Speaker at Carolina Meeting

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 25.—Ted Gamble, president of the Theatre Owners of America, is scheduled to be the principal speaker at the 36th annual convention of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, to be held on Feb. 1-3.

Special entertainment for the ladies is planned. William Johnson, president of Motion Picture Advertising Service, New Orleans, and Bob Simpson, his divisional maanger, will be hosts at luncheon for the ladies. The annual banquet and dance will be held Tuesday night, Feb. 3. Parties in hotel rooms and suites are being planned by local exchanges and supply houses.

White House Lensmen Elect Four Newsreel Cameramen

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Two newsreel cameramen have been elected officers of the White House News Photographers Association; they are: George M. Dorsey, Warner Pathe, named vice-president, and John Tondra, Fox Movietonews, sergeant-at-arms. Alfred J. Oeth, Paramount, and Clarence Ellis, Warner Pathe, have been named to the executive committee.

'Films for Television' on Telecasters' Agenda Today

"Films for Television" will be discussed at an all-day film conference to be held at the Hotel Commodore in New York today. Chester W. Kulesza, film and television production supervisor at Batton, Barton, Durstine and Osborn is conference chairman. Film representatives and video broadcasters will participate.

Siritzky and Supercinema To Operate Golden Jointly

Consummation of an agreement between Siritzky International and Marcello Girosi, president of Supercinema Corp., lessee of the John Golden Theatre, was announced here, under which the theatre will be operated jointly. The management of the house will be under Siritzky Enterprises. First of the new pictures to be booked under a new policy will be "The Idiot," produced in France in 1947.

Adjourn Para. Motion to Jan. 30

Paramount Pictures' motion for a stay of arbitration proceedings with the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, was adjourned to Jan. 30 in New York Supreme Court here on Friday.

Says Lewis Bill Does Not Have a Chance

Representative Lewis's Congressional bill to have producers pay all theatre music fees to the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers "hasn't a chance" of being reported out of the House Judiciary Committee, a spokesman of a major company declared here at the weekend.

Terming the bill "ill-[illegible]we [illegible] thought out," he said that the measure would save exhibitors exactly nothing, "because it would cost the producers hundreds of thousands of additional dollars," and "they'll simply pass that on in increased rentals."

TOA to Meet Ascap

(*Continued from page* 1)

uled for Wednesday. Representing the TOA at the conference will be Gamble, Coyne and A. Julian Brylawski, head of the TOA's legislative committee.

Among other business discussed at the meeting was the agenda and date of the next TOA board meeting. The conferees also took under consideration an invitation extended by Charles Skouras, TOA treasurer, to make Los Angeles the site of the next directors' session.

Decison was reached at the luncheon to hold further meetings with film companies this week on the problem of 16mm. competition.

Ascap Seen Leaning To Producer Deals

A proposal similar to that advanced by Representative Lewis on Monday when he introduced a bill in Congress to require Ascap to deal exclusively with film producers and release exhibitors of all license or other royalty payments has long been advocated by the Society, it is understood.

Assertedly Ascap's preference for dealing with producers instead of exhibitors was predicated on the fact that it simplified the collection of music license fees from thousands of theatres.

The feeling here yesterday was that Ascap would welcome an arrangement such as that proposed by Lewis, who is chairman of the House Judicial Subcommittee on Patents and Copyrights.

Smith Appoints

(*Continued from page* 1)

that J. J. Grady, district manager, has been granted an indeterminate sick leave, and the Cincinnati, Cleveland and Indianapolis exchanges, comprising his district, will report directly to Howard Minsky, Mideast division manager.

Smith also announced that a request for retirement made by Ben Reingold, branch manager in St. Louis, has been granted and he will be succeeded by Gordon Halloran, branch manager in Des Moines. Ralph Pielow, Jr., formerly salesman in the Boston exchange, is promoted to branch manager in Des Moines, succeeding Halloran.

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NATIONAL Screen SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

* "Trailers draw 31% of your Patrons" ...says Woman's Home Companion in authoritative 1947 Movie Survey!

26 Shooting as Production Rises

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—Production activity has gained momentum with 26 films before the cameras, against 23 the previous week. Started were six new pictures, while three were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "Money Madness," Film Classics; "A Southern Yankee," M-G-M; "Kilroy on Deck," Monogram; "The Pitfall," and "Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven," United Artists, and "The Judge's Wife," Universal-International.

Shooting finished on "The Argyle Secrets," Film Classics; "The Timber Trail," Republic, and "The Avenger," UPA Films.

Screen Magazines

(*Continued from page* 1)

lems and to promote their mutual interests.

Homer Rockwell, of Hunter Screen Unit, president of the association, said that the publishers had realized for some time the need for a continuous job of research and study concerning the public's film-going and reading habits—who goes to theatres, etc.

Meetings are now being arranged for the association's publishers, and distributors' advertising-publicity directors, to show them the results of studies already made by the group. The first portion of these findings will soon be ready to be shown to the industry and the association plans regularly to issue marketing and other data about motion pictures to the industry.

A three-man board of directors appointed to handle the association's program of research and promotion consists of William Patjens, advertising manager of Dell; Herbert G. Drake, vice-president of Macfadden, and Roy Pollock, promotion director of Fawcett. Officers of the association, besides Rockwell, are: Philip Keenan, Hillman Publications, vice-president; Allen E. Norman, Fawcett Publications, treasurer; Glover Young, Ideal Publications, assistant treasurer; Charles Terwilliger, Macfadden, secretary.

Magazines represented include: *Modern Screen, Motion Picture, Movie Show, Movie Stors Parode, Movielond, Photoploy, Screen Guide, Screenlond, Screen Stories, Silver Screen.*

Sammis in New Post

Fred R. Sammis has been appointed editorial director of five Macfadden magazines, it was announced by Harold Wise, vice-president and general manager of Macfadden. The group includes *Photoploy*. Sammis, who joined Macfadden in 1934, has been editorial director of *Photoploy* and *Radio Mirror* since 1942.

'Devil in the Flesh'

(*Continued from page* 1)

Friday by Dr. Ward T. Bowen, acting director of the division. The picture was produced by Graetz's AFE Productions.

When the advance print of the picture arrived here from France last year, it was held up by the U. S. Collector of Customs in New York. The film was admitted later on the producer's appeal to Washington. "Diable au Corps" won the Brussels Film Festival award last year.

Reviews

"The Smugglers"

(Rank-Eagle-Lion)

"THE Smugglers" is another of those profoundly earnest dramas that British film-makers have learned to handle so expertly. The story of a youth who gets himself involved in the operations of a band of British smugglers more than a century ago has been related with an intenseness that should more than please those who go in for the forceful type of entertainment.

In a sense this J. Arthur Rank production, in Technicolor, is the record of a chase, the chief characters involved being the boy, a figure of pity torn by fear, and the captain of the ship from which he is a refugee. The captain's search for the youth, who has informed on him in revenge for a beating at the ship master's hands, is depicted in terms of vivid and uncompromising drama. The youth's plight is made more moving by his compulsion to betray the man who befriended him upon his father's death. The boy wins his salvation when he comes through in a crucial test of courage.

Woven into the vigorous story is a touching romance concerning the youth and the stepdaughter of a customs officer slain by the smugglers. The scenes between boy and girl have been neatly dovetailed into the yarn and are very much a part of it.

In "The Smugglers," the British again demonstrated high talent in the use of Technicolor. Its treatment serves admirably to heighten dramatic values. Atmospherically, too, the production rates tops. Richard Attenborough, Michael Redgrave, Jean Kent and Joan Greenwood top a cast that performs with deep conviction. Muriel and Sydney Box produced and also wrote the screenplay, from Graham Greene's novel, "The Man Within." Tense direction is the contribution of Bernard Knowles.

Running time, 85 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, Jan. 31.

P.E.L.

"Campus Honeymoon"

(Republic)

AN unpretentious, but merrily prepossessing concoction about post-war college life and the housing problem has been turned out for Republic under the supervision of associate producer Fanchon. Director Richard Sale cast some personable and willing youngsters, namely, the Wilde Twins (Lyn and Lee), Adele Mara, Richard Crane, Hal Hackett, Wilson Wood and Teddy Infuhr. Providing experienced support are Stephanie Bachelor, Edwin Maxwell, Boyd Irwin and Edward Gargan. Aside from one or two monologues on the precarious predicament of mankind in this atomic age, the story, by Sale and Jerry Gruskin, offers the customers a light-hearted hour's entertainment.

War veterans Crane and Hackett, and co-eds Lyn and Lee, upon arriving at Opalocka University, find that they cannot enroll until they find a place to live. The only homes they can find are in a veterans housing village where only married couples are permitted. So they pose as being married, even though the girls, paired up, and the boys do not love each other, the "marriages" being for outward appearances only, the boys sharing one cabin and the girls the other. Following a siege of customary complications, interspersed with a few catchy tunes, all ends happily with two real marriages.

Running time, 61 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 1.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

Ackland and Taub Form New Company

Playwright Rodney Ackland, whose play, "Crime and Punishment," is current at the National Theatre, here, and William L. Taub have formed a new motion picture and theatrical production company, here and in London, with headquarters in New York.

Ackland and Taub will be associate producers of the screen version of "Crime and Punishment." Plans are now being formulated to do the picture in both New York and Hollywood. It will be released by United Artists. Efforts to have James Mason portray the lead are being negotiated, it was said.

Monogram Loan

(*Continued from page* 1)

from $10,000,000 to $12,000,000 of bank funds," a company statement discloses, adding: "The funds thus provided for under this credit will finance the announced production program of Monogram Pictures as well as Allied Artists Productions."

Banks participating with Security First National are California Bank of Los Angeles, Guaranty Trust of New York and the Bank of the Manhattan Company of New York.

UA Board to Weigh

(*Continued from page* 1)

Kay Harrison, managing director of Technicolor, Ltd., who said he expects a 100 per cent increase in Technicolor prints by next March and a 400 per cent increase in production footage by June. He predicted the photographing and processing of 20 features a year by June.

Technicolor expansion plans in Paris depend on the political situation there. Harrison added. He revealed that the first Italian picture in Technicolor is now being made in Rome at the Scalera Studio and is titled "St. Francis of Assisi." He also asserted that a Technicolor film of the Olympic games, running one and three-quarter hours will be made at a cost of $1,900,000. Ten cameras will be used.

Another passenger, producer David Rose, reported he will go to Hollywood after his contract with James Mason comes up in New York Federal Court next week. He said the situation in England is unchanged since last September.

Other passengers were Peggy Cummins, Jeane Pierre Aumont, David Niven and Mrs. Niven, Rex Harrison and his wife, Lilli Palmer.

Canada's Projectors Are 96% US-Made

OTTAWA, Jan. 25. — The United States was Canada's main source for motion picture projectors during 1947, according to the external trade branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Shipments from the U. S. amounted to $1,261,888 out of total imports of $1,308,977 in the first 10 months of the year, despite the temporary ban on projector imports to conserve dollars. U. S. imports totalled more than 96 per cent.

The report emphasizes the dependability of Canadian theatres on American supplies by pointing out that projectors imported during 1947 from the United Kingdom amounted to only $40,897 and from other sources extremely insignificant, such as a mere $5,728 from Switzerland and only $464 from France.

Likewise, U. S. supplies of film exceeded all other sources in Canada's imports during the period, amounting to $680,033, against $903,856 from all sources. Imports from France amounted to $155,378, and from Britain, $66,162. Imports of cameras and camera parts from the U. S. totalled $1,186,063; camera lenses, etc., $274,856, and camera parts, $167,290.

To Probe Benefits of French Fund Plan

David E. Griffiths, vice-president of Producers Representatives International, with headquarters in London, will leave there for Brussels and Paris on Jan. 30 to determine how independent U. S. producers can obtain the greatest benefits from the French government's proposal to release $11,000,000 in frozen American film funds, the company's New York office disclosed here at the weekend.

Griffiths has also been authorized by Irving Lesser, president of the company, and Seymour Poe, treasurer, to survey activities of French studios with a view to negotiating for U. S. distribution of French films.

Advance MPEA Talks

(*Continued from page* 1)

York meeting of the Protestant Motion Picture Council.

Johnston will preside at the MPEA meeting, with top film industry executives, including company presidents, on hand.

MPAA European manager Fayette W. Allport, and MPAA's representative in France Frank McCarthy were scheduled to leave London by plane yesterday to attend the meeting. It was Allport who, on instructions from Johnston, had been carrying on negotiations with the British government for a settlement of the *ad valorem* tax deadlock until those negotiations broke down recently.

Danger for UK Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

ican producers to invest money in English production" and pointed out that pictures can be made in England at from 60 to 70 per cent of the Hollywood cost. He asserted that there is no reason why American companies are not making pictures there.

Mankiewicz said there was talk in some quarters in England about eventually municipalizing theatres.

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 18 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1948 TEN CENTS

Reissues Must Be Identified, Bureau Warns

Better Business Group Cites Ruling of FTC

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 26.—Better Business Bureau has reopened a drive to influence exhibitors to adhere to the Federal Trade Commission requirement that film reissues be so identified in advertising and promotions.

"Complaints are again being received from patrons that some theatres showing old films fail to indicate in their advertisements that they are reissues, or that the word 'reissued' was in such small type that it was not observed until later," says the Bureau.

"This matter was taken up with theatre managers in Feb., 1946, following similar complaints that patrons selected a show to attend from advertising and learned after the picture was on the screen that they had seen it several years before," it added.

Theatre managers and copy writ-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Para. Experimenting In Chicago Selling

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Paramount is understood to be applying no hard and fast rule in putting into effect any changes in its distribution procedure here required to meet complications arising from the Federal Court decision in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust action.

Rather than devise a single plan to cover all cases, the company is said to be feeling its way experimenting in efforts to comply with the court's de-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Ascap Trust Suit Trial Is Delayed

Trial of the monopoly action brought here by the 165 New York exhibitors against Ascap, which was scheduled to begin in U. S. District Court here next Monday, will not get under way until later.

Reason is that the case is preceded on the calendar by the breach-of-con-

(*Continued on page 6*)

New Films Weather Storm Here, But Holdovers Suffer

The weekend's snowstorm—marking the fourth siege of severe winter weather in as many weekends for New York's first-run downtown theatres—took the edge off grosses here, but not enough to matter too much at situations where new product was showing. Holdovers, on the other hand, found the bad weather quite detrimental, an exception being Radio City Music Hall, where "The Paradine Case," plus a stage show, is expected to bring in a very good $128,000 in a third week.

First week of "Treasure of the Sierra Madre," at the Strand, is aiming for a record-threatening $70,000, following a $36,000 weekend. A solid $90,000 is in store for the first week of "I Walk Alone," at the Paramount. At the Capitol, "If Winter Comes" is expected to bring a rotund $54,000. "T-Men," at the Criterion, pulled in

(*Continued on page 6*)

Suchman Rejoins E-L in Sales Post

Al Suchman has returned to Eagle-Lion as Eastern sales manager. Effective at once, he will resume full supervision over all sales and distribution in the territory served by the company's 11 Eastern branches.

In announcing Suchman's return to Eagle-Lion, A. W. Schwalberg, vice-president and general sales manager, disclosed that the nation had been divided into two sales regions, with the balance under Herman Beiersdorf as Western sales manager.

Extend Processing Of New Bldg. Code

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 26.—The revised New York State building code, which will have many new provisions affecting theatres, will not be promulgated "for at least several months," and it is likely that the new document will become effective as late as Dec. 1 next, according to a spokesman of the State Board of Standards and Appeals here.

The board still is studying the new code, public hearings on which last summer produced a number of exhibitor recommendations for changes.

Price-Cut For French Films

Devalution of the French franc yesterday automatically reduced by about 50 per cent in terms of dollars the purchase price of French films for the American market. For example, a print which sold for, say, $250 before the devaluation, can now be bought for $136.

However, it is believed among importers of French films here that French producers will set about immediately to increase the price of their product to the pre-devaluation dollar level. It is dollars the producers are interested in, not francs, the importers pointed out.

But French film importers here who have production investments in France, such as Siritzky International, look to benefit financially under the new

(*Continued on page 6*)

Shows 'Stairway' for Free When They Don't Pay to See

Pick Group to Set Video Film Scales

A film coordinating committee to look into problems facing television was formed here yesterday at the close of an all-day television conference at the Commodore Hotel, here. The committee will meet in about 10 days and will try to set up a rate structure for the rental of features and shorts. Included in the group are representatives of the film industry, advertising agencies and television.

Film members of the group include

(*Continued on page 6*)

Because she liked J. Arthur Rank's "Stairway to Heaven," distributed by Universal, so much, Helen Quimby, operator of the first-run Auditorium Theatre in Fort Wayne, Ind., brought the picture back to the theatre after a disappointing initial engagement and invited the public to see it without charge, Universal home office officials said yesterday.

Showing of the picture "for free" was vigorously criticized by exhibitors in the Fort Wayne area and is characterized in the current bulletin of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana as an "immoral and unwarrant-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Chances Bright For Lifting Building Ban

Relatively Unimportant, Senate Group Is Told

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Chances became definitely bright today for an early end to Federal curbs on theatre construction, when Housing Expediter Tighe Woods admitted to a Senate banking and currency sub-committee that theatre and other entertainment construction was, comparably, an "insignificant" part of the building picture, and that he wouldn't "feel too badly if the curbs were dropped."

The committee is holding hearings on extending the rent control law past its Feb. 29 expiration date. Under one section the Government controls theatre and other amusement construction.

Woods said officially he had to urge continuation of the limitation power, so that his office could not be accused at a later date of wrecking the housing program if things got worse. He will

(*Continued on page 3*)

Independents Find Borrowing Easier

Banks here and on the West Coast which virtually discontinued loans to independent producers following enactment of the British *ad valorem* film duty last August are once more making such loans in increasing number but on what is described in financial circles as "a conservative basis."

Reportedly all loans currently being made are based on domestic returns alone, with no potential foreign revenue being counted upon. Established producers with approved releasing ar-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Says British Refused To Discuss Levy

LONDON, Jan. 26.—The British *ad valorem* tax and its unnecessary consequences will be continued because responsible British government authorities have declined so far to sit down and discuss possible alternatives with the American Motion Picture Export Association, Samuel Eckman, M-G-M's managing director in England, declared here yesterday in a

(*Continued on page 6*)

First 'Outsider' at Warner in 5 Years

When United Artists' "A Miracle Can Happen" opens at the Warner Theatre here on Feb. 3, replacing "Voice of the Turtle," it will mark the first time since Oct., 1942, that a picture not produced or distributed by Warner Brothers will have shown at that situation. Last fall the theatre's name was changed from the Hollywood.

"Miracle," co-produced by Benedict Bogeaus and Burgess Meredith, stars Henry Fonda, Meredith, Paulette Goddard, James Stewart and Dorothy Lamour.

Variety Cites New And Retiring Chiefs

Some 400 industry representatives paid tribute to Walter Immerman in Chicago at the weekend as he was installed as chief barker of Tent No. 26 of the Variety Club of Illinois, while in Albany, honor was paid to Neil Hellman, retiring chief barker there, and in New Haven, Variety will install new officers today.

Present at the dinner for Immerman, who is vice-president and general manager of Balaban and Katz, were Mayor Martin J. Kennelly, James Coston, Arthur Schoenstadt, Jack Kirsch, Jack Rose, Henri Elman, Maurice Wells, Will Baker, Robert Lubliner, Irving Mandell, William McCraw, Harold Stevens, Father Paul Hoban, Tom Flannery, Irving Mack, Lester Simansky, George V. Topper, and others.

At the Hellman affair, he was praised as "a tireless worker for Variety causes." Among those present were C. J. Latta, second assistant national chief barker; Harry Lamont, new chief barker of Tent No. 9; Charles A. Smakwitz, former chief barker, and McCraw, who is executive secretary of Variety International.

In New Haven today, the installation of officers of Variety Club of Connecticut will take place at the Oneco Restaurant. Speakers will include McCraw and Latta. Newly elected officers include Barney Pitkin, New Haven RKO Radio branch manager, reelected chief barker; Lou Brown, first assistant chief barker; Leo Bonoff, second assistant barker; George Wilkinson, Jr., dough guy; Arthur Greenfield, property master.

Goldwyn Blasts Hurt Industry, Says Siegel

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Samuel Goldwyn's recent criticisms of Hollywood have been assailed by Producer Dave Siegel as uncalled for and harmful to the industry as a whole.

Siegel warned that "if Goldwyn keeps talking long enough about how chaotic the business is, he might finally be successful in persuading financiers to refuse to invest in pictures and the general public to refuse to attend them."

Personal Mention

JOSEPH HAZEN, president of Hal Wallis Prod., returned to New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

ERIC A. JOHNSTON, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, and KENNETH CLARK, publicity director, are in New York from Washington.

•

FAYETTE W. ALLPORT, MPAA European manager, and FRANK MCCARTHY, MPAA representative in France, arrived here yesterday from London.

•

JACK WRATHER, Monogram producer, and his wife, BONITA GRANVILLE, left New York for the Coast over the weekend.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal-International Southern and Canadian sales manager, will leave New York today for Toronto.

•

DONALD HYDE, United States Pictures vice-president, returned to Hollywood over the weekend from New York.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M exploitation head, has returned to New York from field meetings in Cincinnati and Chicago.

•

RUDY BERGER, M-G-M Southern sales manager, will return to Washington Feb. 8 from a tour of Southern branches.

•

SID BLUMENSTOCK, 20th Century-Fox assistant exploitation manager, left here yesterday for Toronto.

•

HENRY L. NATHANSON, head of M-G-M of Canada, is on the Coast from Toronto.

•

J. J. DONOHUE, Paramount Central division sales manager, has returned here from Chicago.

•

VOLDEMAR VETLUGIN, M-G-M studio editorial executive, will leave the Coast on Feb. 6 for New York.

NATE BLUMBERG, president of Universal, left Hollywood by plane yesterday for New York.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M vice-president and advertising-publicity director, returned here yesterday from the Coast.

•

JOHN DAVIS, managing director of the J. Arthur Rank Organization, London, has been elected to the board of Eagle Star Insurance Co., Ltd., of Great Britain.

•

CAROL BRANDT, M-G-M Eastern editorial head, and OLIN H. CLARK, Eastern story head, are due back in New York next Monday from Hollywood.

•

HARRY MANDEL, RKO Theatres advertising-publicity director here, who was reported yesterday to be leaving for Miami, isn't.

•

MR. and MRS. H-ALBAN MESTANZA, of Foreign Screen Corp., film importer-exporter, left here yesterday for a week's visit in Cuba.

•

GROVER C. SCHAEFER, Film Classics special sales representative in New Orleans, left that city over the weekend for New York.

ED HINCHY, head of the Warner playdate department, left here last night for Albany, N. Y.

•

N. PETER RATHVON, RKO president, arrived in New York yesterday from Hollywood.

•

EUGENE MCEVOY of 20th Century-Fox's sales department, here, and MRS. MCEVOY became parents of a son yesterday.

•

MOREY GOLDSTEIN, Monogram national sales manager, left here yesterday for Pittsburgh and Buffalo.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, will leave here today for Richmond.

J. Parnell Thomas Is Ill Enroute to Canal

Rep. J. Parnell Thomas, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, who presided over hearings in Washington recently on alleged Communistic influences in Hollywood, yesterday was being rushed toward Cristobal, Panama, aboard the Panama Line's *Ancon* on which he was stricken with gastro-intestinal hemorrhage on Sunday while en route to the Panama Canal Zone.

Thomas was reported "improving." He was to have investigated alleged Communistic activities in the vicinity of the Panama Canal.

Republic Meet Today

CLEVELAND, Jan. 26.—James Grainger, Republic vice-president and general sales manager, with James V. O'Gara, division manager, will hold a regional meeting here tomorrow through Thursday, at the Statler Hotel.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK · Ann TODD · Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN · Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
· Spectacular Stage Presentation ·

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
JOHN WAYNE · LARAINE DAY in TYCOON
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

WALT DISNEY'S Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

BURT LANCASTER
LIZABETH SCOTT
In HAL WALLIS' production
"I WALK ALONE"
A Paramount Picture
In Person
ANDY RUSSELL
HELEN FORREST
DICK WESSON · MACK & DESMOND
And As An Extra Added Attraction
JERRY WALD AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

The THEATRE GUILD presents the RKO RADIO PICTURE
"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA"
TWICE DAILY 2:30 and 8:30 PM
3 PERFORMANCES SUNDAY at 2:00, 5:15 and 8:30 PM
RESERVED SEATS ONLY
GOLDEN THEATRE 45th St. W. of B'way

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT · LORETTA YOUNG · DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

starring RONALD REAGAN · ELEANOR PARKER · EVE ARDEN · WAYNE MORRIS
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE
WARNER THEA
Opens 10:30am · LATE MIDNIGHT FILM · B'way at 51st

OPENS 9 AM LATE FILM AT MIDNIGHT
LATE STAGE SHOW 10:30 PM B'WAY AT 47th
WARNERS' STRAND
HUMPHREY BOGART in TREASURE of SIERRA MADRE
WALTER HUSTON · with TIM HOLT · BRUCE BENNETT
Produced by HENRY BLANKE
IN PERSON LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
EXTRA! RED AND CURLEY

CAPTAIN from CASTILE
TECHNICOLOR
TYRONE POWER
20th CENTURY-FOX
Doors Open 9:30 A.M.
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

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Minnesota Owners Renew with N.C.A.

MINNESOTA, Jan. 26.—Southeastern Minnesota Exhibitors Association for the second year renewed its membership as a group in North Central Allied at a meeting held here. Joe Milnar, Spring Valley, is president; Lou Hummell, Pine Island, is secretary, and William Carter, Jr., Clarkfield, is treasurer of the group.

Stanley Kane, NCA executive director, and Ted Bolnick, partner in the Berger circuit, and its general manager, outlined the use of Allied's Caravan reporting service at the meeting. Kane also reported on progress of the fight against Ascap fees, and the Berger-Ascap suit, and discussed the St. Paul five per cent admission tax. The Southeastern group voted to meet in Minneapolis on the third Thursday of each month.

Rites Tomorrow for Silent Star Bill Cody

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Services will be held Wednesday morning at Blessed Sacrament Church here for Bill Cody, 57, silent film star who died Saturday. Surviving are his wife and two sons.

Friedberger Rites Held

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Jan. 26.—Funeral services for William S. Friedberger, assistant manager of Walter Reade's St. James Theatre here, were held at the theatre yesterday. The remains were sent to Baltimore for burial. Friedberger, 38, died Thursday when a car he was driving to Florida crashed and burned near New Brunswick.

Services for McRae

Funeral services for Guy McRae, 52, an employee of Paramount Pictures for 28 years who died here Saturday after an illness of five months, will be held at the Howard D. McGill Funeral Parlor, Manhattan, tomorrow, at noon. Rev. Edward Theopold will officiate. Interment will be in Flushing Cemetery.

NCA to Meet March 22-23

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 26. — Annual convention of North Central Allied has been set for Minneapolis March 22 and 23, it was disclosed by Stan Kane, secretary.

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GENERAL MANAGER, FILM BUYER & BOOKER now in complete charge of all details and supervision of small circuit of de luxe theatres, desires change. Considered TOPS in industry. Available on short notice. Excellent references.

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We are expanding our national sales organization and have valuable openings for men capable of demonstrating and selling nationally-advertised professional 16 MM-35MM film laboratory equipment. Exclusive territories guaranteed, leads furnished, high earnings, assured to men acquainted with film field and sincerely interested in building profitable, permanent association with soundly established company. Write, giving full details, to MICRO ENGINEERING CORPORATION, 118 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

News Briefs

32 Out of 51 Territorial Chairmen Named for Drive

Ten more territorial chairmen have been added to the exhibitor committee working on behalf of "American Brotherhood Week," sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The new acceptances now makes 32 out of 51 to be announced.

Included in the latest acceptances are: William Hastings, Colorado; A. Joseph De Fiore, Delaware; William A. White, Greater New York; E. I. Parker, Hawaii; Trueman T. Rembusch, Indiana; William Steege, Montana; Homer LeBallister, Nevada; Ed Fay, Rhode Island; A. Julian Brylawski, Washington, D. C.; Moe Silver, Western Pennsylvania.

C. D. Howe Is Named Canadian Minister of Trade, Commerce

OTTAWA, Jan. 26.—C. D. Howe, who has the responsibility of Canada's dollar-saving controls and capital import restrictions, in which the motion picture industry is involved, has been named Minister of Trade and Commerce under new cabinet changes. He was formerly Minister of Reconstruction and Supply.

The Department of Trade and Commerce will now be the "head office" for film men negotiating in Canada's dollar-saving program.

Phillips and Joseph Are Promoted by E-L in Chicago

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Clarence Phillips has been appointed acting branch manager, and Irving Joseph Chicago branch sales manager for E-L.

Consolidated Theatres Stock Issue

OTTAWA, Jan. 26. — Consolidated Theatres, Ltd., has issued 73,500 cumulative non-callable class A shares, no par value, offered at $9.50 per share and carrying a bonus of one-fourth class B share with each class A.

Dick Dynes Is Shifted

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 26. — Dick Dynes, shifted two weeks ago from the Minneapolis Selznick Releasing Organization sales staff to Des Moines, has been given responsibility for SRO sales in the Omaha territory.

CTA to Vote on Joining TOA

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—Membership of the California Theatres Association will act this week on possible membership in the Theatre Owners of America.

'Frisco MPF Names Finance Committee

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—Opening a drive for funds to aid needy members of the film industry, the Motion Picture Foundation here has selected seven Bay Area theatre men as a finance committee, according to Jerry Zigmond, chairman. On the committee are George Nasser, chairman; Joe Blumenfeld, Blumenfeld circuit; Ben Levin, General Theatrical; Robert Lippert, Lippert Theatres; Richard Spier, Fox West Coast; Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox, and Irving M. Levin, San Francisco Theatres.

Industrialists Plan Studio for Jamaica

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Plans for a 30-stage studio in Jamaica, British West Indies, capable of turning out 104 features annually, were announced here today.

Organized by Robert B. Cumming, lawyer, the new project, known as Kingswood Films, will be jointly financed by American and British capital, it was stated.

Associated with Cumming in the enterprise are: Thomas White, president, Jensen Manufacturing Co.; Harold Mattes, executive vice-president, Belmont Radio Corp.; Emmanual Larson, president, Hebard Storage and Warehouses; B. W. Pattishall, attorney; Charles M. Hofman, vice-president of Belmont and co-owner of General Magnetic Corp., all of Chicago, and Robert Cummings, Sr., president, Brooks-Cumming Co., California; and Bindley Cyrus, president, West Indian Association.

Cumming recently returned here from negotiations in London.

The company is currently negotiating with independent producers in this country and England. "For example," he said, "Lawrence Langner, president of the Theatre Guild of America, has informed us that the executive board of the Guild, which has been contemplating a substantially increased participation in film making, has voted to utilize the facilities of Kingswood."

Cumming explained that, "We are presently engaged in negotiations on the secondary stage of major financing. The third, and final stage, after the corporation is on a paying basis" will be a public stock offering.

Theatco Trust Trial Delayed to March 8

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—Theatco's anti-trust case against eight distributors and circuit theatres will come up for hearing on March 8 and will have a new judge to hear the trial. Judge Roche, presiding judge of Federal Court here, who was to have sat for the case, is going to Honolulu to attend legal matters there. The new judge has not yet been named, but he will sit only for the Theatco case.

The trial was originally slated to come up today, but was put over because of a crowded calender and also because numerous depositions of defendants have not been completed. Charles Skouras, Fox West Coast chief, flew here from Los Angeles last week for his deposition.

Grierson in New Post

OTTAWA, Jan. 26. — John Grierson, formerly Canadian government film commissioner and head of the National Film Board of Canada, is reported here to be taking a post in the United Kingdom documentary film field. For the past year he has held an executive post with the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization.

Ralph Pielow Installed

DES MOINES, Jan. 26.—Ralph Pielow was installed today as branch manager for 20th-Fox, succeeding Gordon Halloran, who is being shifted to St. Louis to take over management of that branch made vacant by retirement of Ben Reingold. Installation of Pielow was made by M. A. Levy, Prairie district manager.

Building Ban

(*Continued from page* 1)

probably repeat this stand in a written statement he has to submit to the sub-committee later this week. Asked how he felt about the matter personally, however, Woods admitted that he did not feel very strongly one way or the other, and that he could not prove the limitation had done any good at all.

Sen. Buck, who brought up the topic and pressed Woods closely on the matter, said he favored dropping the limitation and "getting rid of all this red tape." House Banking and Currency Committee Chairman Wolcott, who will probably have the deciding role in writing the final rent and housing bill, has said he would favor dropping the limitation power if it could be shown that theatre and similar construction is minor.

The committee was told that since the present law took effect on July 1, the housing expediter has granted $23,000,000 worth of theatre and other amusement projects, while turning down $75,000,000 million. From July 1 to Jan. 16, he turned down 330 theatre projects, worth $40,979,281, and approved 310 projects, valued at $11,730,529.

Para. Experimenting

(*Continued from page* 1)

cree, with each case being treated as circumstances dictate.

The company has devised a different system of operation on the South Side, where the Jackson Park Theatre is located, with some clearance changes having been made in the city generally, it is understood.



THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST
MOTION PICTURES



To The Ends

COLUMBIA PICTURES GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE COOPERATION OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND ITS BUREAUS OF NARCOTICS, CUSTOMS AND COAST GUA

EXCITING AND SHOCKING EVER MADE!



The picture that took TWO DRAMATIC YEARS to film ...in Shanghai, Cairo, Havana and the far corners of the world...

COLUMBIA PICTURES
presents

OF THE EARTH

starring

DICK POWELL • SIGNE HASSO

with LUDWIG DONATH • VLADIMIR SOKOLOFF • EDGAR BARRIER

and introducing the Chinese actress **MAYLIA**

Story and screenplay by Jay Richard Kennedy • Directed by ROBERT STEVENSON

A SIDNEY BUCHMAN Production • Associate Producer JAY RICHARD KENNEDY

COLUMBIA PICTURES

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One MPAA official said following the meeting, that nothing occurred to indicate that settlement talks with the British can be initiated in the near future.

In London, as reported elsewhere in MOTION PICTURE DAILY today, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir

(*Continued on page 6*)

Denies Code Takes 'Force' Out of Films

Eric Johnston yesterday defended the Production Code against those who condemn it as an obstacle to the creation of pictures of substance, force and meaning.

Speaking at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel at a Protestant Motion Picture Council luncheon at which M-G-M's "The Yearling" was honored as the best picture of 1947, the Motion Picture Association of America president charged that "grumbles" against the Production Code "very often are the outward manifestations of minds too lazy to create, little-formula minds which can't think of anything 'differ-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Aid to Needy Set As First MPF Aim

A recommendation that the aid and relief of those in need in the industry be the first obligation of the Motion Picture Foundation will be made to the next meeting of the board of trustees of the MPF program-and-scope committee, Ned E. Depinet, committee chairman, and Ted R. Gamble, vice-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Report Skouras and Rank Meet with Eady

Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, and Sir Wilfrid Eady, British Treasury official, were luncheon guests of J. Arthur Rank in London yesterday, according to well-informed sources here.

While it was conceded that Skouras may have exchanged views with Sir Wilfrid on the British film tax and its consequences, it was emphasized that the talks could have no official status inasmuch as Skouras is without authorization to speak for the industry. Rank has long been desirous of bringing leaders of the American industry face to face with U. K. government officials in London.

House Ascap Hearings Set

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—A House judiciary sub-committee today scheduled hearings to start March 1 on legislation to require Ascap to deal with film producers instead of exhibitors in collecting royalties of publicly produced music of Ascap members in motion pictures.

The hearings will be before a subcommittee headed by Rep. Lewis, who introduced the bill, which is backed by Allied States Association. Rep. Lewis said he plans to ask Allied, Ascap and the Theatre Owners of America to designate representatives to testify.

Blocked Sterling No Alternative for U. K. Tax: Cripps

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The British government not only declines to abandon the 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax on film imports, but it also is unprepared to substitute for it any alternative system for blocking sterling held by American motion picture interests in this country. This was disclosed here today by Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in answer to a question propounded in the House of Commons.

No progress is possible, Sir Stafford said, until this position of the British government is fully recognized.

U. A. Board Weighs Production in U. K.

A British production program calling for five pictures yearly at a cost of $1,000,000 each, over a seven-year period, was taken under consideration here yesterday by the United Artists board of directors. The program, which has the official "blessing" of the British government, was marked for further discussion by the directors. The plan was presented by Arthur W. Kelly, UA executive vice-president, who returned from London on Friday.

Possibility of an accord in the suit involving United Artists and Cagney Productions over the distribution of "The Time of Your Life" was reported to the meeting. Discussions will be continued in the hope of reaching an understanding.

Meanwhile, the motion of Cagney Productions to vacate and set aside

(*Continued on page 6*)

20th-Fox News To NBC Video As Commercial

To Be Telecast Five Nights Weekly in East

In the first deal of its kind, 20th Century-Fox yesterday concluded arrangements by which it will furnish a daily newsreel issue for National Broadcasting Company's Eastern network, to be sponsored by the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., for Camel cigarettes.

Terms of the deal, which is for one year, were not disclosed but it is understood that it involves a new high in commercial rates in the television field and provides for increases to both NBC and 20th-Fox's Movietone News as new television stations are added to the present exhibition lineup.

The first reel will go on the air Feb. 16 and will run eight minutes. New reels will be provided daily, Mondays through Fridays, with telecasts at 7:50 P.M. in New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Schenectady and Baltimore. Prints of the reel in 16mm. will be flown to NBC television stations in Milwaukee, Detroit, St. Louis and Cincinnati and may be carried on as many as 20 stations by

(*Continued on page 6*)

RKO Management Stays in Any Deal

Success of any negotiations for the acquisition of a controlling interest in RKO by any person or group through the purchase of shares held by Floyd Odlum's Atlas Corp. would not result in a change of the film company's management, N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president, stated here yesterday following his arrival from the Coast.

Rathvon based his assurance on the fact that all discussions in the past

(*Continued on page 6*)

SRO to Release Five In 1st Half of '48

Selznick Releasing Organization will release five pictures in the first half of 1948, it will be announced here today by Neil Agnew, SRO president, following five sessions of the company's division sales meeting. The five include: "Intermezzo," "Paradine Case," "Portrait of Jennie," "Mr.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Theatres in 40 Cities Must Provide Parking

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 27.—New York state theatres and other places of public assembly "hereafter erected" would be compelled to provide off-street parking space under a bill introduced by Senator Desmond (Newburgh, Rep.). A ratio of 200 square feet for each 10 persons of total seating capacity would be required. The average space for theatres in 40 cities and counties throughout the country enforcing such requirements is said to be one car parking space for each seven patrons.

Theatres in business sections or downtown amusement areas in many

(*Continued on page 6*)

Gamble, Coyne Take Tax Fight to Capital

The exhibitors' fight to have the present 20 per cent Federal admission tax reduced to the pre-war 10 per cent was taken to Washington yesterday by Ted Gamble, president of the Theatre Owners of America, and Robert W. Coyne, executive director.

Proposals to cut the tax will be discussed today with Representative Knutson and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, of which Knutson is chairman. Also representing the TOA at the discus-

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In London, as reported elsewhere in MOTION PICTURE DAILY today, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir

(*Continued on page 6*)

Denies Code Takes 'Force' Out of Films

Eric Johnston yesterday defended the Production Code against those who condemn it as an obstacle to the creation of pictures of substance, force and meaning.

Speaking at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel at a Protestant Motion Picture Council luncheon at which M-G-M's "The Yearling" was honored as the best picture of 1947, the Motion Picture Association of America president charged that "grumbles" against the Production Code "very often are the outward manifestations of minds too lazy to create, little-formula minds which can't think of anything 'differ-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Aid to Needy Set As First MPF Aim

A recommendation that the aid and relief of those in need in the industry be the first obligation of the Motion Picture Foundation will be made to the next meeting of the board of trustees of the MPF program-and-scope committee, Ned E. Depinet, committee chairman, and Ted R. Gamble, vice-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Report Skouras and Rank Meet with Eady

Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, and Sir Wilfrid Eady, British Treasury official, were luncheon guests of J. Arthur Rank in London yesterday, according to well-informed sources here.

While it was conceded that Skouras may have exchanged views with Sir Wilfrid on the British film tax and its consequences, it was emphasized that the talks could have no official status inasmuch as Skouras is without authorization to speak for the industry. Rank has long been desirous of bringing leaders of the American industry face to face with U. K. government officials in London.

House Ascap Hearings Set

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—A House judiciary sub-committee today scheduled hearings to start March 1 on legislation to require Ascap to deal with film producers instead of exhibitors in collecting royalties of publicly produced music of Ascap members in motion pictures.

The hearings will be before a subcommittee headed by Rep. Lewis, who introduced the bill, which is backed by Allied States Association. Rep. Lewis said he plans to ask Allied, Ascap and the Theatre Owners of America to designate representatives to testify.

Blocked Sterling No Alternative for U. K. Tax: Cripps

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The British government not only declines to abandon the 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax on film imports, but it also is unprepared to substitute for it any alternative system for blocking sterling held by American motion picture interests in this country. This was disclosed here today by Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in answer to a question propounded in the House of Commons.

No progress is possible, Sir Stafford said, until this position of the British government is fully recognized.

U. A. Board Weighs Production in U. K.

A British production program calling for five pictures yearly at a cost of $1,000,000 each, over a seven-year period, was taken under consideration here yesterday by the United Artists board of directors. The program, which has the official "blessing" of the British government, was marked for further discussion by the directors. The plan was presented by Arthur W. Kelly, UA executive vice-president, who returned from London on Friday.

Possibility of an accord in the suit involving United Artists and Cagney Productions over the distribution of "The Time of Your Life" was reported to the meeting. Discussions will be continued in the hope of reaching an understanding.

Meanwhile, the motion of Cagney Productions to vacate and set aside

(*Continued on page 6*)

Theatres in 40 Cities Must Provide Parking

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 27.—New York state theatres and other places of public assembly "hereafter erected" would be compelled to provide off-street parking space under a bill introduced by Senator Desmond (Newburgh, Rep.). A ratio of 200 square feet for each 10 persons of total seating capacity would be required. The average space for theatres in 40 cities and counties throughout the country enforcing such requirements is said to be one car parking space for each seven patrons.

Theatres in business sections or downtown amusement areas in many

(*Continued on page 6*)

Gamble, Coyne Take Tax Fight to Capital

The exhibitors' fight to have the present 20 per cent Federal admission tax reduced to the pre-war 10 per cent was taken to Washington yesterday by Ted Gamble, president of the Theatre Owners of America, and Robert W. Coyne, executive director.

Proposals to cut the tax will be discussed today with Representative Knutson and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, of which Knutson is chairman. Also representing the TOA at the discus-

(*Continued on page 6*)

20th-Fox News To NBC Video As Commercial

To Be Telecast Five Nights Weekly in East

In the first deal of its kind, 20th Century-Fox yesterday concluded arrangements by which it will furnish a daily newsreel issue for National Broadcasting Company's Eastern network, to be sponsored by the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., for Camel cigarettes.

Terms of the deal, which is for one year, were not disclosed but it is understood that it involves a new high in commercial rates in the television field and provides for increases to both NBC and 20th-Fox's Movietone News as new television stations are added to the present exhibition lineup.

The first reel will go on the air Feb. 16 and will run eight minutes. New reels will be provided daily, Mondays through Fridays, with telecasts at 7:50 P.M. in New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Schenectady and Baltimore. Prints of the reel in 16mm. will be flown to NBC television stations in Milwaukee, Detroit, St. Louis and Cincinnati and may be carried on as many as 20 stations by

(*Continued on page 6*)

RKO Management Stays in Any Deal

Success of any negotiations for the acquisition of a controlling interest in RKO by any person or group through the purchase of shares held by Floyd Odlum's Atlas Corp. would not result in a change of the film company's management, N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president, stated here yesterday following his arrival from the Coast.

Rathvon based his assurance on the fact that all discussions in the past

(*Continued on page 6*)

SRO to Release Five In 1st Half of '48

Selznick Releasing Organization will release five pictures in the first half of 1948, it will be announced here today by Neil Agnew, SRO president, following five sessions of the company's division sales meeting. The five include: "Intermezzo," "Paradine Case," "Portrait of Jennie," "Mr.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Personal Mention

MONTAGUE SALMON, managing director of the Rivoli Theatre, New York, and MRS. SALMON have left here for Hollywood.

•

LEON J. BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, will leave here today for Richmond to attend the Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Association convention.

•

FRED MEYERS, Universal-International Eastern division sales manager, will be in Buffalo, N. Y., tomorrow and Friday from Albany before returning to New York.

•

ZEB EPSTIN, managing director of Warner metropolitan theatres here, is hospitalized at the Fifth Avenue Hospital, New York, by a fractured elbow.

•

OSCAR F. NEU, vice-president of Neumade Products, left here yesterday on a business trip to New England and will return at the weekend.

•

PAUL HOLLISTER, RKO Radio national publicity director, returned here yesterday from Hollywood.

•

DEAN LYNCH, RKO Radio booker in Charlotte, and BETTY HARGETT will be married on Feb. 13.

•

IRVING SHERMAN, Columbia branch operations assistant manager, is in Chicago from New York.

•

JOHN F. REEDER and VERNON CALDWELL, Walt Disney Prod. executives, are in town from Hollywood.

•

EDWARD C. RAFTERY has returned here from Buffalo.

Kleid Returns to NSS

Bernard Kleid, who for many years was associated with National Theatre Supply, has rejoined the sales staff of the New York branch after a year's absence in which he was in business for himself.

News Briefs . . .

'Gentleman's Agreement' in 12th Week, Despite Jackson Park Ruling

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Chalking up high grosses as it enters its 12th week, "Gentleman's Agreement" continues at the Apollo Theatre despite the two-week Loop-run limit imposed by the Jackson Park decree. Showing of the film beyond the limit has not been protested by the Jackson Park Theatre probably due to the original stipulations set forth by 20th-Fox whereby "Agreement" would be withheld from general release to neighborhood and outlying theatres until March regardless of the length of the Apollo run. The film will continue indefinitely.

Ferguson to Hold Another Meet For M-G-M Field Exploiteers

Third in the series of five meetings between William R. Ferguson, head of M-G-M exploitation, and field sales executives and promotion men will be held next Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Astor Hotel, here, for the Eastern division. Attending will be Floyd Fitzsimmons, Albany and Buffalo exploiteer; Ken Prickett, Boston and New Haven; James Ashcraft and Ed Gallner, Philadelphia; John P. Byrne, Eastern sales manager, and Herman Ripps, his assistant.

Sherman Leaves Circuit Post

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Al Sherman has resigned as publicity consultant for Sidney Lust's Hippodrome Theatre to develop his plan for controlled circulation of sponsored motion pictures. He will continue as film consultant to various other interests and to serve as Washington representative of Film Classics.

Representative Thomas Improving

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—House Un-American Activities Committee Chairman Thomas is "progressively improving" from a serious attack of stomach ulcers which struck him while en route to the Panama Canal Zone, according to word received here today.

March of Dimes to Benefit from 'Roosevelt' Berlin Screenings

Anniversary of President Roosevelt's birthday on Friday will be observed in Berlin by the first showing in Germany of the motion picture, "The Roosevelt Story," under the auspices of the Berlin chapter of the American Veterans Committee, AVC New York spokesmen declare. Proceeds of three showings in the Titania Palast will go to the U. S. March of Dimes and infantile paralysis funds in Germany, Britain and France, through the co-operation of United Artists.

Ontario Theatres Association Holds First Ottawa Meeting

OTTAWA, Jan. 27.—First luncheon-meeting of the Ontario Motion Picture Theatres Association in Ottawa was held under the chairmanship of John Kurk, president.

Ross McLean, Film Commissioner of the National Film Board, gave a resume of the board's activities during 1947 and disclosed that plans are being made to extend exhibition of Canadian-made documentary films in South America, Europe and Asia. Frank Gallop, secretary-treasurer of the association, welcomed members and guests, the latter including representatives of the press.

Coy, Stripling Approved for FCC Posts by Senate Group

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The nominations of Wayne Coy as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and George E. Stripling as FCC commissioner was favorably reported today by the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Kirsch Heads Red Cross Drive

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, will again head the amusement and recreation division of the 1948 Red Cross drive for Chicago. Drive officially starts March 1 and the quota for the division is $35,000.

Newsreel Parade

GANDHI ending his peace fast, and the clash between Edwin W. Pauley and Harold Stassen make newsreel highlights in current reels. Other items include a mass wedding in China, sports and fashions. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 8—Harold Stassen and Edwin W. Pauley clash to "inside" market trading. Jerusalem [illegible] Gandhi ends fast. Chinese mass wedding. Voice of America to tell the world about the U. S. Bob Feller signs contract. Ice-boat speed racing. California golfing family.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 242—Harold Stassen and Edwin W. Pauley clash. Tense day in the Holy Land. Gandhi breaks fast. Mass wedding in China. Voice of America talk. Ice-boat regatta. Boxing.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 45—Gill Dodds sets track record. Strong voice for U. S. abroad: Foreign Information Service. Gandhi breaks fast. Princess Elizabeth food gifts feed needy. Mass marriages in China. Harold Stassen versus Edwin W. Pauley. Ice-boat regatta.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 112—Gen. Clay warns of German unrest. Gandhi ends fast. U. S. information program explained. Goodwill milk ship for hungry abroad. Hidden pirate gold in Florida. Mass Chinese wedding. Baseball. Canada ice-boat regatta.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 47—Mass wedding in China. Princess Elizabeth shares wedding gifts. Hat that can be worn 50 different ways. Europe to get facts on U. S. Gandhi ends fast. Edwin W. Pauley and Harold Stassen clash. Boxing.

Eastern Pa. Allied Votes Buying Unit

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—The membership of Eastern Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania today approved the buying and booking combine being set up by the organization. It held its 10th annual meeting at the Broadwood Hotel here. Also at the meeting a vote of confidence was given to the national and local administrations of Allied.

Speakers included Abram F. Meyers, general counsel for the national organization, who discussed theatre divorcement, and Sidney Samuelson, general manager of the local group, who reported on activities of the past year.

Reade To Campaign Against Film Apathy

Observing its founder's 40th year in the industry, "and to sell to the public the high calibre of 1948 product," Walter Reade Theatres will hold a "40th Anniversary Jubilee" in 23 of its theatres in New Jersey and New York from Feb. 11 to March 23.

With the theme "movies are still your cheapest and best form of family entertainment," the jubilee will seek to combat public apathy toward films "which in many parts of the country has crystalized into a feeling that current films are not as good as they used to be," according to the circuit.

687 Theatres Are in Los Angeles Area

There are 687 theatres with a seating capacity of 537,819 currently in operation in the Los Angeles territory, according to a Los Angeles theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of America is releasing today.

The 23rd in a series of 31 directories, the newest directory reveals that Los Angeles, largest city in the territory, has 216 theatres with a total capacity of 194,917. San Diego and Long Beach have a combined total of 48 theatres with a capacity of 45,500.

In the Los Angeles area, 129 theatres are located in 117 towns with a population of 2,500 and under. These account for a total capacity of 64,243, an average of 498 seats per theatre.

Smith-Mundt Bill Signed by Truman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—President Truman today signed the Smith-Mundt Bill, authorizing the State Department's overseas information program. The motion picture industry hopes for some aid in its foreign distribution problems under the bill, although Congress decided to leave out of the bill any provision for U. S. Government aid on blocked funds abroad.

Sayers Leaves Research

James E. Sayers, client executive in charge of the New York office of Audience Research, has resigned, effective Feb. 1. Sayers will leave immediately for California to settle private affairs there. James L. Wolcott, vice-president and general manager, will assume his duties.

Cincinnati Theatres Crippled by Weather

Cincinnati, Jan. 27.—Critical gas shortages throughout the state due to continued zero weather is forcing many factories to close. Undetermined thousands are out of work and theatre business is crippled.

Ohio Fuel Gas Co., serving half of Ohio, is requesting gas-heated theatres and other amusement places to close until the weather moderates. It warns that it will invoke emergency closings for failure to comply voluntarily.

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BETWEEN THE LIONS

Read It And Reap!



WEATHER: Nothing can keep them away from M-G-M pictures



STAR OF THE WEEK SPENCER TRACY

He adds another great role, "Cass Timberlane," to his long list of outstanding performances.

"DICKEY-BIRD SONG" IS A WINNER!

Biggest music exploitation in years for the hit tune from "Three Daring Daughters." It is expected to equal the success of M-G-M's current air-wave favorite "Pass That Peace Pipe" from "Good News."



"CASS TIMBERLANE" RUNNING "GREEN DOLPHIN STREET" CLOSE RACE!

Early Dates of Tracy-Turner Sensation Reveal M-G-M has First Big Hit of 1948!

Establishing the largest M-G-M gross in 5 years at Tulsa, and rolling up remarkable totals in its first thirteen cities "Cass Timberlane" looks like another Big One of "Green Dolphin" calibre. Confirming its selection as "Picture of the Month" by Cosmopolitan Magazine and winning praise wherever it plays, "Cass" is rated by theatre managers as "Just what the public wants." **(Late Flash! "Cass" first week beats "Green Dolphin" in 8 out of 13 spots!)**

BOX-OFFICE LINES

14 women's clubs with membership of 20 millions endorse "Green Dolphin Street" . . . . Pete Smith's "Bowling Tricks" launched with big promotion . . . . M-G-M has seven newly completed attractions in Technicolor, and an eighth in production.



A DOUBLE TRIUMPH FOR LANA TURNER

America's millions who are enjoying Lana's exciting work in "Green Dolphin Street" will be receptive to your announcement of her equally sensational role in "Cass Timberlane." As the girl from the wrong side of town who yearns for life—and gets it!—she portrays a character every girl dreams about and will want to see.

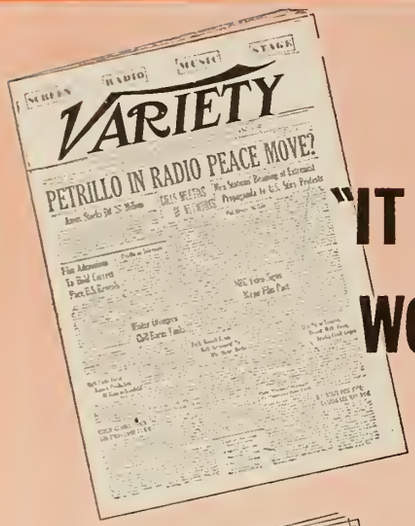
EDITORIAL

Because it truly represents the philosophy of The Friendly Company toward our own customers we hail the publication by the Personal Finance Company of an essay entitled "The Customer—the most important person *ever* in this office." We quote briefly from it: "He is not dependent on you—you are dependent on him. He is not an interruption of your work—he is the purpose of it. He is not someone to argue with or match wits against—nobody ever won an argument with a customer even though they may have thought they did. He is a person who brings us his wants. If we have sufficient imagination we will endeavor to handle them profitably to him and to ourselves."

OUR MOTTO FOR TODAY:

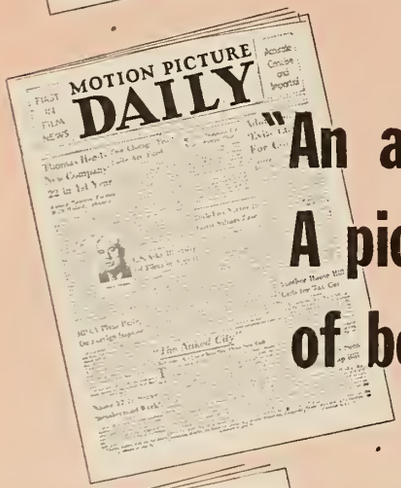
SHOWMANSHIP IS THE HOLIDAY WRAPPING THAT MAKES FOLKS WANT TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE.

The Word is out ab


VARIETY

PETRILLO IN RADIO PEACE MOVE?

"IT CAN'T MISS AT THE BOX-OFFICE. THE WORD-OF-MOUTH SHOULD BE PHENOMENAL!"


MOTION PICTURE DAILY

"An adventure drama of unforgettable impact. A picture that soars into the highest brackets of box-office material!"


THE Film DAILY

JOHNSTON CALLS HEADS TO EMERGENCY PA

Court Restricts Contempt Plea to Suit

"Brilliantly handled from every direction. Should reap dollars at any box-office. It's for the gallery of greats!"


MOTION PICTURE HERALD

Better Theatres

THE THEATRE SUPPLY MART

"It took the late Mark Hellinger to catch New York's many moods, its changing face, its racing pace and its exciting dynamics as, perhaps, no previous attraction has ever succeeded!"

out "NAKED CITY"!



"Exciting! Suspenseful! A prize package of entertainment! A stirring photoplay whose commercial fate should parallel in magnitude the subject matter it digests!"



"Really splendid entertainment for all audiences everywhere. Could be one of the best box-office attractions of the year!"



RKO Management

(*Continued from page* 1)

had been conducted with the understanding that the RKO management would remain unchanged.

Conversations between Howard Hughes and Odlum, chairman of the RKO board, for acquisition of all or part of the latter's RKO shares were described by Rathvon as "preliminary."

The RKO president disclosed there had been no talks between Odlum and a "group of private investors" associated with Robert R. Young, Pathe Industries head. The Young group recently announced it was "looking" at RKO "with a view toward possible investment."

Rathvon revealed that he had dropped negotiations "some time ago" on a deal of his own to acquire the Odlum stock, with others.

The view was expressed that Odlum would sell his holdings "under certain conditions." Rathvon would not say what the "certain conditions" might be.

According to the RKO president, the company plans to produce fewer pictures this year, the only reason being that "inventories are well up."

It was also disclosed that Argosy will make pictures for RKO Radio release additional to "The Fugitive." Rathvon added that Leo McCarey will make one picture for RKO before going to Paramount.

Argosy's "Three Godfathers" Seen Going Through M-G-M

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 27.—Argosy Pictures' "The Three Godfathers," Peter B. Kyne story to be made by John Ford, will, it is understood, be distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

British Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

Stafford Cripps told the House of Commons that not only does England turn thumbs down on proposals to drop the 75 per cent-of-earnings tax on foreign films, but that the British government has no intention of agreeing to the alternative of blocking sterling of American companies in England.

The Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers was represented at yesterday's meeting here by James Mulvey, president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions. Presidents and other top executives of all companies, including Republic and Monogram, were present, and the meeting was presided over by MPAA president Eric A. Johnston who, following adjournment, prepared to return immediately to Washington.

No further meetings on the British or other foreign situations are scheduled for the immediate future, an MPAA spokesman said.

FILM TECHNICIANS WANTED AS SALES REPRESENTATIVES

We are expanding our national sales organization and have valuable openings for men capable of demonstrating and selling nationally-advertised professional 16 MM-35MM film lahoratory equipment. Exclusive territories guaranteed, leads furnished, high earnings, assured to men acquainted with film field and sincerely interested in huilding profitahle, permanent association with soundly established company. Write, giving full details, to MICRO ENGINEERING CORPORATION, 118 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

Johnston Calls His Role 'Temporary'

In his address before the meeting of the Protestant Film Council here yesterday, Motion Picture Association of America president Eric A. Johnston referred to his leadership of the MPAA as "temporary."

Johnston's reference to his "temporary leadership" came during the course of his citing of several individual MPAA department heads for their continuous efforts in behalf of the association and the industry in general.

Code Critics Hit

(*Continued from page* 1)

ent' or 'compelling' except something on the border line of pornography."

"I'm constantly being asked if we have clamped down on pictures which criticize this or that American institution, tradition or profession as a result of the House committee investigation of Hollywood," Johnston said. "It is charged that pictures of the past dealing with controversial themes couldn't be made today. It is also said that contemplated productions of this character have been abandoned. There's just no truth in that."

Cites Fight in Memphis

Referring to an industry court case against Memphis censors, who banned a picture because Negro children were shown attending the same school as white youngsters, Johnston asserted that "we in our industry intend to fight censorship on every front and to fight it with all our resources before it becomes a serious danger to free speech and democracy."

The MPAA head said that the loss of a large share of its foreign revenue is spurring Hollywood to the production of better pictures at lower cost, adding: "The results should be evident on the screen in the coming months."

"Hollywood is going through travail, of course, but it is reconverting without panic and without fear," he said. "It is trimming extravagant costs built up during lush war years. It is eliminating waste. By careful planning, it is reducing shooting schedules and introducing other efficiency devices in the studios."

'Avoids Political Censorship'

Dr. Daniel A. Poling, editor of the *Christian Herald,* active in the work of the Protestant Motion Picture Council, expressed the belief that the rating system employed by the council "has helped remove the threat of, or any necessity for, a political censorship of pictures."

The award to "The Yearling" was the first to be made by the council. It was accepted for M-G-M by J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and general counsel of the company.

U. K. Production

(*Continued from page* 1)

the complaint of United Artists involving distribution of "Time of Your Life" was adjourned to Feb. 2 in New York Supreme Court yesterday. At the same time, a second action by UA, which jointly named Cagney Productions and Warner Brothers, was discontinued by UA.

Tax Fight to Capital

(*Continued from page* 1)

sions will be A. Julian Brylawski, TOA legislative committee head.

Gamble and Coyne are scheduled to return to New York tomorrow.

Ways and Means Committee Approves Knutson's Tax Cut

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The House Ways and Means Committee by a 15-to-9, party-line vote, today approved the Knutson $693,000,000,000 income tax reduction bill. House leaders predict that the bill will pass the House in its present form, and that the Senate will whittle down some the size of the reduction. Debate is scheduled to start in the House on Thursday, and a final vote is expected on Monday.

The bill provides for a $100 increase in personal exemptions, nationwide application of the community property principle, and 10 per cent to 30 per cent cuts in income tax rates.

By a vote of 17-6, the committee rejected an amendment proposed by Rep. Dingell which would end all wartime increases in excise taxes, including admissions. Dingell said he stressed reduction in the price of the "poor man's amusement—motion pictures."

20th-Fox News

(*Continued from page* 1)

the end of the year as new ones are added to the NBC video network.

The initial viewing audience for the reels in the East is estimated at 1,000,000 people.

The reel will be known as "Movietone News—Television Edition" and will be produced by Edmund Reek, producer of the company's theatre newsreel, under the direction of Peter Levathes, 20th-Fox newsreel and short subjects sales manager. It will be produced separately from the theatre newsreel. Although the company conceded that subjects may be the same in both reels, their treatment will differ, necessarily because of the different requirements of television.

Aid to Needy

(*Continued from page* 1)

chairman, announced here yesterday following a meeting of their group.

A comprehensive survey of the industry and its potential needs will be conducted by the committee. Plans for the survey will be made at meetings of two sub-committees during the next 10 days, and the full committee will meet again on Saturday, Feb. 7.

Suggestions for MPF activities other than the aid and relief of industry needy should not be acted upon until its primary aim has been established on a sound basis, the program-and-scope committee believes.

Ill. Allied Campaign On Theatre 'Pests'

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Jack Kirsch, president of Illinois Allied, states that more than 75 Allied theatre members will participate in a "Movie Pests" poster contest, a project of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, to promote better behavior in theatres. Winning posters will be displayed in theatre lobbies.

SRO to Release Five

(*Continued from page* 1)

Blanding Builds His Dream House," and "Duel in the Sun."

SRO will hold another Eastern division regional meeting at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, tomorrow, to discuss sales policy for 1948 product, it was announced by Milton S. Kusell, distribution vice-president. Sidney Deneau, assistant general sales manager, will also attend from the home office.

Sales personnel on hand will include J. E. Fontaine, Eastern division manager; Saul J. Krugman, J. J. Oulahan, Thomas F. Duane, all district managers, and the following branch sales representatives: Douglas MacLeod, Schuyler Beattie, William Rosenow, Norman Silverman, Elmer McKinley, H. F. Henderson, James Velde, John D. Keating, Leonard Mishkind and Eugene P. Alexander, Detroit.

Sales policies of the five pictures to be released by SRO in the first half of 1948 will be discussed.

Horowitz Holds SRO Meeting

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Sam Horowitz, Midwest division manager of Selznick Releasing Organization, held a one-day divisional sales meeting at the Drake Hotel.

Theatre Parking

(*Continued from page* 1)

cities have complained repeatedly over box-office losses resulting from parking congestion.

Under Desmond's proposed bill for New York State, apartment houses would have to provide one space for each apartment; hotels, one space for each four rooms; office buildings and department stores would be required to provide one space for each 400 square feet over a certain limit.

The bill stipulates that unless a local city council specifically exempts that city, requirements would be compulsory in all cities of New York. The bill would thus in effect "force local government officials to consider parking difficulties in their communities," Desmond says.

Grosses Go Higher With Devonshire

LESLIE BANKS - FLORA ROBSON

"FAREWELL AGAIN"

"LIFE ON A TROOPSHIP"

Your Devonshire Man in Kansas City Is Walter Lambader

DEVONSHIRE FILM COMPANY

185 Devonshire Street Boston, Mass.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 20 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1948 TEN CENTS

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'47 Admission Tax Collection Hits a Record

Revenue Bureau Reports Income of $389,867,479

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—General admission tax collections during 1947 totalled $389,867,479, a new record, being two per cent higher than the previous record of $381,520,217, collected in 1946, according to figures released here today by the U. S. Bureau of Internal Revenue.

These figures cover admissions to legitimate theatres, sporting events, and other performances, as well as to motion picture theatres, but film admissions are usually considered to account for 80 to 85 per cent of the total general admission collections. The figure does not include cabaret or roof-garden taxes nor taxes on various overcharges.

Studio Locals Ask 8% Living Cost Rise

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—IATSE studio locals are asking producers for an eight per cent cost-of-living increase retroactive to Jan. 1 and pegged to a sliding scale in line with the Department of Labor index, whether up or down, in negotiations which started here several weeks ago, Roy Brewer, IATSE representative here, disclosed today. The cost-of-living rise would be in addition to the 11.17 per cent increase carried over from late 1946, he said.

Meanwhile, Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, today conferred with an exhibitor committee on behalf of Projectionists Local No. 150, which has asked for wage increases approximating 30 per cent and changes in working conditions. With Walsh slated to fly to Miami over the weekend, meetings are expected to continue tomorrow.

Church Unit's 1948 Film Program Set

More than 30 films are in various stages of planning or production by the Protestant Film Commission, Paul F. Heard, executive secretary, announced at the third annual meeting of the commission here yesterday. Also announced were plans to establish a

(*Continued on page 4*)

Dec. Tax Take Is 2 Millions Over '46

Washington, Jan. 28.—Federal admission tax collections in Dec., 1947, reflecting November box-office receipts, topped Dec., 1946 by more than $2,000,000, the first time in three months that the take in any 1947 month exceeded the comparable 1946 month. Dec. 1947 collections totalled $37,785,638, compared with $35,484,436 in Dec., 1946.

All admission tax collections, including the cabaret and roof-garden tax and the tax on overcharges, amounted to $42,930,914 in Dec., 1947, compared with $41,182,756 in Dec., 1946.

Four Wallis Films in '48

Hal Wallis Productions will make four pictures in 1948, all for distribution by Paramount, it was disclosed here yesterday by Joseph Hazen, president of the Wallis company, following his arrival from Coast conferences.

The four are: "Sorry, Wrong Number," "Be Still, My Love," "The House of Mist" or "Paid in Full" and "The Rope of Sand." "Sorry, Wrong Number" is now shooting with Anatole Litvak directing and Barbara Stanwyck and Burt Lancaster in top roles. "Be Still, My Love" is scheduled to go into production shortly. The remaining two pictures will be

(*Continued on page 4*)

TOA to Seek Aid From Senate on Admission Tax Cut

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Fight by the Theatre Owners of America for an admission tax reduction has shifted from the House to the Senate, it was learned here today following conferences between TOA president Ted Gamble and executive director Robert W. Coyne with Rep. Knutson, chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, and Rep. Dingell, Democratic member of the unit.

Convinced that nothing is to be gained in the near future in the House, which will begin debate tomorrow on the Knutson tax-reduction bill with all amendments from the floor barred, the TOA leaders said today they would concentrate on getting the Senate Finance committee to amend the Knutson bill. The measure will prob-

(*Continued on page 2*)

Skouras, Rank Will Resume Talks Later

LONDON, Jan. 28.—Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, and J. Arthur Rank, who have engaged in preliminary discussions on the proposed "pooling" of Gaumont-British and Odeon, have postponed further talks until an early date, to be held in either London or New York. Rank has been reported to be planning a trip to the U. S. in the near future. Twentieth-Fox has an interest in GB.

Talks between the two, described

(*Continued on page 4*)

U-1 Sets 25 For 1948; Has 15 Completed

Says 1947 Was a Top Year for Attendance

Universal - International has scheduled 25 features for release during 1948, of which 15 have already been completed, the company discloses in its annual report released yesterday.

The report states that it was apparent early in 1947 that "costs of product and operations had gotten out of balance with reasonably expected revenues" and that a start was made immediately to effect substantial reductions "in our whole operating cost structure, both production and distribution." It adds that the imposition of the British film tax last August gave impetus to the company's retrenchment program "in all phases of our business."

By the end of the fiscal year, Nov. 1, 1947, Universal "had effected continuing savings of a very sizeable

(*Continued on page 2*)

'U' 1947 Profit Is $3,230,017

While Universal's 1947 income increased approximately $11,000,000 over 1946, the company's net profits last year decreased to $3,230,017 from the preceding year's net of $4,565,219.

The company's annual report, released here yesterday, said that the major part of the increased business last year was contributed by revenues from its new eight and 16mm. division and "by increased volume from distribution of the J. Arthur Rank productions."

On the other hand, operating costs of Universal during its fiscal year end-

(*Continued on page 2*)

3 Firms Guilty in Bordonaro Suit

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 28.—A Federal Court jury here today found three motion picture companies, Paramount, RKO Radio and Warner Bros. Circuit Management, guilty of conspiracy in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act and awarded $85,000 in damages to Bordonaro Brothers Theatres, Inc., of Olean, N. Y., plaintiff. The jury

(*Continued on page 4*)

British Tax Settlement Seen Up to State Dept.

If there is to be a settlement of the British *ad valorem* tax deadlock in the not-too-distant future, the U. S. State Department will have to step in, now that all avenues of negotiation between the American film industry and the British government apparently have been traversed to no avail.

This was the impression conveyed here yesterday by a number of industry executives who attended Tuesday's joint meeting of the Motion Picture Export Association's board of directors and executive council here.

The MPEA has heretofore considered approaching the State Department on the British tax question, but reportedly delayed the step.

Exploitation Films Planned by M-G-M

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—Expansion of M-G-M's production policy to include a number of exploitation pictures semi-documentary in style and featuring timely subjects was announced here today by L. B. Mayer and E. J. Mannix, production executives. Samuel Marx has been appointed executive in charge of developing the subjects for treatment.

The number of these subjects, which will be geared to earning potential in the present domestic market, was not revealed. It is understood that budgets will be moderate.

Personal Mention

BEN GOETZ, head of M-G-M production in Britain, is due here next week from London en route to the Coast.

•

FRED R. SAMMIS, editorial director of *Photoplay*, will leave New York today for the Coast, where he will preside at the magazine's "Gold Medal" awards banquet on Feb. 16.

•

SABIE CONTI, manager of Walter Reade's Oxford Theatre, Plainfield, N. J., has resigned to manage the Iselin Theatre, Iselin, N. J.

•

RAY COYLE, assistant to C. J. FELDMAN, Universal-International Western division sales manager, left New York yesterday for San Francisco.

•

JOSEPH BERNHARD, Film Classics president, and MRS. BERNHARD have left New York for a cruise to the West Indies.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, M-G-M exchange operations head, is due back here Monday from a Western tour.

•

PAT PATTERSON, Astor Pictures franchise holder, is in town from San Francisco.

•

MARTIN QUIGLEY is due in Hollywood today from New York.

Cut Admission Tax Fight Reds, 'U' Asks

Reduction of the Federal admission tax to at least 10 per cent is suggested in Universal's annual report to stockholders, released here yesterday.

The report states that the reduction is deserving of consideration by Congress because of "the proven usefulness to the nation of American motion pictures," because of the prospect of substantial losses of revenue to films in foreign markets and because of increased costs at home.

"Such a reduction would help the industry to maintain the high standards expected of American motion pictures," the report declares.

Universal stockholders were told the company "has pledged its support in the nation's fight on Communism."

"The industry takes pride in the fact that enemies of the American system, and Communists everywhere, hate and fear American motion pictures," the report states.

'U' Stockholders Meet

Annual meeting of Universal stockholders will be held March 10 in Wilmington, Del. All directors of the company will be up for reelection at the meeting. The annual meeting of the Universal board will be held at the home office in April.

'U' Chiefs to Work Without Contracts

New term contracts will be negotiated "at some later date" with Nate J. Blumberg, J. Cheever Cowdin, Charles D. Prutzman, W. A. Scully and J. H. Seidelman of Universal who have agreed to continue on the same basis of yearly compensation and profit-sharing as formerly, since the expiration of their contracts last Dec. 31, the company reports.

Negotiations for new pacts are being postponed, it was said, "until the outlook for the company's business becomes more clearly defined."

U-1 Sets 25

(*Continued from page* 1)

amount," the report says, adding that "cost studies are continuing and further reductions are being effected."

"The studio is now producing pictures at substantially less cost than it was able to do last year and, in our opinion, without any sacrifice in quality or entertainment values," the report declares.

A 32-page document, signed by J. Cheever Cowdin and Nate J. Blumberg, the report covers all phases of Universal's activities during the 1947 fiscal year and is perhaps the most complete accounting to stockholders provided within the industry.

Reports Theatre Business High

It reports that domestic theatre business in 1947 "continued excellent, attendance remaining at approximately the same levels as in 1946," a record year for the industry. It adds that theatre attendance in many other countries "also remained close to peak levels" in 1947. This is in contrast to reports of declining theatre attendance last spring and summer from other industry sources, indicating that the reported decline in theatre business then may have been overcome in subsequent months, with the result that 1947, as a whole, was another record year for theatre attendance.

Universal's foreign business in 1947 receded only $500,000 from its all-time peak of $23,100,000 in 1946, according to the report. The company received $4,880,000 in remittances from Great Britain in 1947.

Sees Export Revenue Dip

The report says that it is hoped that "in due course" a solution will be found to the British film tax problem. Taking note of that and other restrictions on foreign film markets, the report declares that it may be expected that "whatever the outcome of negotiations abroad, export revenues in the near future will be at lower levels than those of the last few years."

Universal reports progress in marketing the J. Arthur Rank British pictures here but concedes that the task of introducing them to this market has been made more difficult by the imposition of the British film tax there.

Universal's acquisition of an eight and 16mm. film business through purchase of Castle Films and Filmosound division of Bell and Howell "is providing an increasing source of revenue to the company and promises to become an important part of our overall business," the report states.

Cite Investments Abroad

Favorable results also are forecast for the company's purchase of an interest in African Consolidated Films, Ltd., and in the Dutch theatre operating company, Maatschappij Tuschinski N. V.

Commenting on increased costs and efforts at economies within the industry, the Universal report says: "If current employment and wage scales are to be maintained there must be increasing efficiency and productivity on the part of all of the industry's workers. Wages and salaries today constitute a major proportion of costs.

"The exhibitor, too, must be willing to assume a greater share of the burden now placed on the industry by the curtailment of foreign revenues and by present-day costs required to make quality product for exhibition in his theatre."

'U's' 1947 Profit

(*Continued from page* 1)

ed last Nov. 1 amounted to $58,883,164, compared with $45,169,152 in the preceding year. Of the increased costs, the report stated, approximately $10,000,000 was accounted for by higher amortization charges, costs of the new eight and 16mm. business, a changeover to single picture selling occasioned by the New York Federal Court decree in the industry anti-trust case and "a general increase in all basic operating costs.

Net working capital at the end of the 1947 fiscal year aggregated $37,020,522, an increase of $7,741,527 over the preceding year, making it the largest total in Universal history. Current and working assets amounted to $44,807,111, and current liabilities were $7,786,589. Inventories, production advances to outside producers, etc., at the end of the fiscal year amounted to $32,880,747 against $25,248,364 in the preceding year.

Financing for the larger inventory was aided last year by the establishment of a five-year revolving credit agreement with an initial maximum of $15,000,000, with the First National Bank of Boston, Bank of Manhattan Co. and Guaranty Trust Co., under which $10,000,000 is currently borrowed, the report said.

26 Theatres Now in Gillman Buying Unit

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 28.—Irving Gillman, manager of United Intermountain Theatres, buying and booking combine here, has signed four more houses to his group. They include the theatres of William McFarlane of Manti, Alvie Peterson of Monroe, Gene Wadsworth of Hurricane and Jay C. Christensen of Salt Lake City. These represent the first theatres for Gillman in Utah; he has a total of 26, the rest being in Montana.

News Briefs

Stoltz Buys All of Terhune's Works for Own Production Unit

Arnold Stoltz, who will leave New York today for Hollywood to set production plans for his previously announced "Man O' War," reported here yesterday that he has purchased all of the works of author Albert Payson Terhune for film production, including "Lad," "Gray Dawn," "Wood," "The Luck of the Laird," "Jock," and 37 other novels and stories by the dog-story specialist.

Stoltz reported additionally that he has closed a life-time contract with the trainer of the sport-show collie, Laddie-Boy, to feature in his films.

70,000 000 Persons Abroad Saw Canadian Films in Year

OTTAWA, Jan. 28.—An estimated 70,000,000 persons in other countries saw Canadian films through commercial distribution in 1946-47, the National Film Board reports.

The report said there had been "marked expansion" in international distribution in both theatrical and non-theatrical fields. Distribution outlets for the government films have been established in 35 countries and exploratory contacts have been made in another 30.

Reserve 20th-Fox-SPG Decision

New York State Supreme Court Justice Henry Clay Greenberg heard reargument here yesterday on his recent decision in which he granted 20th Century-Fox its motion to preclude arbitration proceedings by the Screen Publicists Guild. Justice Greenberg reserved decision. The dispute grew out of the discharge of nine persons by the company last August.

ABPC 7½% Stock Dividend

LONDON, Jan. 28.—Associated British Pictures Corp. has declared a seven-and-one-half per cent interim dividend on common stock for the year ending March 31. This compares with a 10 per cent interim dividend paid in 1947.

Admission Tax Cut

(*Continued from page* 1)

ably be passed by the House Monday. It will be several weeks before the Senate schedules hearings on the measure.

There is plenty of time for an "education" campaign among the Senators, the TOA heads said. Several already have been sounded out informally, they indicated. If they fail to get Senate backing in the admission tax cut, TOA may then turn to the House for a special bill.

In the morning Gamble and Coyne conferred with Attorney General Tom Clark on the "general economic picture." Theatre business was mentioned only incidentally, they reported, and the industry anti-trust case not at all. Gamble and Coyne also held talks with A. Julian Brylawski, TOA national legislative representative.

Gamble left for New York late tonight, while Coyne left for Richmond.

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the N.Y. Strand with

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TURE FROM BE-
GINNING TO
END!" CAMERON
N.Y. NEWS

"TOWERS OVER THE MOVIES
LIKE THE MATTERHORN!
AGER—PM—N.Y

TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE

"A MEMORABLE, IN
TENSELY POWER
FUL DRAMA—ONE
OF THE FINEST!
PELSWICK
N.Y. JOUR.-AME

HEADED
STRAIGHT
FOR 1948
HONORS!"
WINSTEN
N.Y. POST

"I DON'T SEE HOW
A FILM CAN TOP IT!"
MORTIMER—N.Y. MIRROR



starring
HUMPHREY BOGART · and WALTER HUSTON
TIM HOLT · BRUCE BENNETT

directed by JOHN HUSTON · produced by HENRY BLANKE

SCREEN PLAY BY JOHN HUSTON · BASED ON THE NOVEL BY B. TRAVEN · MUSIC BY MAX STEINER

Ohio Owners Merge

CLEVELAND, Jan. 28. — New Yorktown, 1,500-seat deluxe neighborhood house which opened last August and the 1,200-seat Parma located in nearby Parma, which was built the previous year have been merged into a partnership operation. Involved are John D. Kalafat, James E. Scoville and Howard Reif of the Parma, and Ted and Albert Vermes of the Yorktown. Merger becomes effective Feb. 1st.



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Hear Arguments on New Film Delivery

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 28.—South Dakota's public utilities commission has taken under advisement the appeal of Henry Scheuette and Russell Hanneman for a class B truck permit to establish a film delivery service for theatres in approximately 60 situations in the Sioux Falls and Aberdeen areas. Scheuette told the commission that South Dakota is "the only state where such a service has not been authorized."

Opposition to a license was voiced by representatives of the M. and St. L. and Chicago, Northwestern railroads, the Wilson Storage and Transfer Co., and others. Appearing in behalf of the applications were Amy Zimmer, Woonsocket; R. L. Maston, Flandreau; Mike Roggeman, Elkton; Dan Peterson, Brookings, theatre owners; Frank Egan, Paramount, and Sherm Fitch, RKO Radio.

Church Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

campaign for raising funds to finance the objectives of the commission, which include production of religious films and the operation of an office in Hollywood for cooperation with the industry.

All officers of the commission were reelected. They include Rome A. Betts, president; S. Franklin Mack, vice-president; Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale, secretary; Harry R. Bowler, treasurer. Of 17 directors to be elected, 13 were renamed and four new ones were named, including Dr. M. Theron Rankin, Mrs. Rush Taggert, Bettie Brittingham and William Hoeft.

First of the films produced, now being shown, is "Beyond Our Own." The second, shortly to be released, is "My Name Is Han."

Skouras, Rank

(*Continued from page* 1)

as "amicable," were cut short because it became necessary for Skouras to return to the U. S. in a few days. Skouras and 20th-Fox International president Murray Silverstone will leave here for Paris tomorrow, and Skouras will leave there shortly by plane for New York. Silverstone will return to London on routine business. Otto Koegel, 20th-Fox's general counsel, who joined Skouras here recently, returned to New York today aboard the *S. S. Queen Mary.*

Bordonaro Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

voted no cause of action against five other defendant companies.

The latter five companies were Warner Bros. Pictures, United Artists, Universal Film Exchanges, Inc., 20th Century-Fox and Loew's.

Plaintiffs claimed that the companies conspired to prevent their Palace Theatre from obtaining first-run product.

Set 'Wyoming' Premiere

LANCASTER, O., Jan. 28.—World premiere of 20th Century-Fox's Technicolor special, "Green Grass of Wyoming" will be held May 26 at the Palace and Broad here. A three-day civic celebration, highlighted by "Governor's Day" for the chief executives of Ohio and Wyoming, will be staged by the Chamber of Commerce.

Reviews

"Piccadilly Incident"

(*Wilcox-M-G-M*)

WHILE a little late in reaching American shores, this British war romance is so heavily stocked with sure-fire emotional appeal that it is certain to click solidly, especially with women audiences in this country. Containing material of a highly popular nature, "Piccadilly Incident" unreels the type of tale that never fails to appeal to the feminine heart. First-class production at the hands of Herbert Wilcox gives the extremely fictional plot a much higher rating than perhaps it merits.

The lovers in the film are Anna Neagle, a WREN, counterpart of our WAVE, and Michael Wilding, a Marine officer of noble lineage, who meet during a London blackout. No sooner are they married, after a brief romance, than the girl is shipped overseas. She is erroneously reported dead when her ship is sunk, and the husband, not knowing that she is alive on a Pacific isle with a number of shipmates, remarries after a long wait. When Miss Neagle is rescued and learns the truth, she cannot face the prospect of breaking up Wilding's home. The screenplay of Nicholas Phipps provides a convenient solution by having Miss Neagle die from injuries sustained in an air raid. The film was splendidly acted under the direction of Wilcox.

Peter Burnup's London review of the film, which appeared in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Sept. 27, 1946, said, in part: "It's competent, tells a novelettish and none-too-disturbing story. . . . Nevertheless, the film emerges as one of those pieces which women sigh over, tell their neighbors about, and go to see again. Wilcox has compounded a piece which will run through box-offices like a bush fire."

Running time, 88 minutes. Adult classification. Release date, not set.

P.E.L.

"Black Bart"

(*Universal-International*)

ON the credit side of this Universal-International outdoor action-drama is a cast that includes Yvonne De Carlo, Dan Duryea and Jeffrey Lynn. Also to be noted are landscaped scenes in Technicolor pastels which are beautiful. With a few minor variations, the film otherwise follows the Western formula, containing a satisfactory measure of riding, plus whistling bullets. Miss De Carlo, cast as a visiting entertainer, provides an added lift with some song and dance numbers.

The story presents Duryea as Black Bart, a masked highwayman who preys on Wells-Fargo stage coaches. During the course of these risky enterprises he meets bejeweled Miss De Carlo and falls in love with her. Then under the guise of a respectable citizen he proceeds to win her hand. Learning of his lawless deeds, she exacts from him a pledge to go straight. But just as things look bright, the screenplay takes an ironic turn, in which Duryea is forced to go through one more looting, and thus meet his tragic end.

The screenplay, by Luci Ward, Jack Natteford and William Bowers is told retrospectively and always maintains a brisk clip, but serious film-goers might find its characters on the incredible side. The two former named writers were also responsible for the original story. George Sherman directed and Leonard Goldstein produced.

Running time, 80½ minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Four Wallis Pictures

(*Continued from page* 1)

prepared to go into production next fall.

Wallis pictures to be released by Paramount in 1948 number three. They consist of "I Walk Alone," "So Evil My Love," which was produced in England, and "Sorry, Wrong Number." Final editing of "So Evil My Love" is now being completed by Wallis on the Coast.

Hazen said that the Wallis distribution contract with Paramount, calling for the delivery of a total of 12 pictures, will terminate this year. To date, nine of the films have been delivered. They are "Love Letters," "The Affairs of Susan," "You Came Along," "The Strange Case of Martha Ivers," "The Searching Wind," "The Perfect Marriage," "Desert Fury," "I Walk Alone" and "So Evil My Love." Delivery of "Sorry, Wrong Number," "Be Still, My Love" and "The House of Mist" or "Paid in Full" will wind up the contract.

Solms Joins Pathescope

Erwin Solms has joined the staff of Pathescope Corp., it was announced by Edward Lamm, president. Solms will serve the New York film producing company in an executive sales capacity.

Legion Rates Eight Additional Pictures

Three of eight features reviewed by the National Legion of Decency have been rated A-I; they are: "Enchanted Valley," Eagle-Lion; "Slippy McGee," Republic, and "Western Heritage," RKO Radio. Placed in Class A-II were: "Holiday Camp," Universal-International; "Main Street Kid," Republic; "Mary Lou," Columbia, and "To Live in Peace" (Italian), Times Film Corp.

Twentieth Century-Fox's "Call Northside 777" was placed in Class B.

Says Need Better Shows

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28.—Completion of a survey on the educational aspects of films and their influence on young people is reported by Mrs. Ruth B. Hedges, editor of *National Parent-Teacher,* film review paper. It stresses the need for improvement in theatre programs, with community interest and activity to encourage theatremen.

Halloran in CMPS Post

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 28.—Pat Halloran, Minneapolis film salesman, has been named a national vice-president of The Colosseum of Motion Picture Salesmen.

It Wins In A "WALK"

as its first openings outpace the sweeping boxoffice performance of "Desert Fury" in

New York City

Biggest opening day in months at the Paramount.

San Francisco

Opened within a few dollars of "Fury's" big stars-in-person premiere.

Detroit

Ahead of "Desert Fury" and holding for 3rd big week.

Rochester

1st week passes "Fury" and 2nd week continues at a 20%-better gait.

Miami

1st 4 days beat week's figure for "Fury" which included a holiday.



Tucson

Equalled record-setting local appeal gross of "Desert Fury" which included Labor Day.



LOUELLA PARSONS IS RIGHT, IT'S ANOTHER

"Great Entertainment" From Paramount

Yes, Paramount's E. Q. (Entertainment Quotient) is the industry's highest . . . with Associated Press hailing "THE PERILS OF PAULINE" as "The most entertaining picture of the year" and the whole nation singing praise of "GOLDEN EARRINGS" as the song becomes No. 2 in Billboard's Top Tunes survey and crashes the Lucky Strike Hit Parade.



BURT

LANCASTER

and

LIZABETH

SCOTT

in

HAL WALLIS'

production

"I WALK ALONE"

with

WENDELL COREY
KIRK DOUGLAS
KRISTINE MILLER

and

GEORGE RIGAUD · MARC LAWRENCE
MIKE MAZURKI · MICKEY KNOX

Directed by BYRON HASKIN • Screenplay by Charles Schnee • Adaptation by Robert Smith and John Bright • Based upon an original play "Beggars Are Coming To Town" by Theodore Reeves • Produced on the stage by Oscar Serlin



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presents

PAULETTE GODDARD



BURGESS MEREDITH



JAMES STEWART



HENRY FONDA



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DOROTHY LAMOUR

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as they appear in

"A MIRACLE CAN HAPPEN"

with

WILLIAM DEMAREST

HUGH HERBERT

Eduardo Ciannelli · Charles D. Brown

and Dorothy Ford · Betty Caldwell · Carl Switzer

Frank Moran · Eilene Janssen · David Whorf

Screenplay by

LAURENCE STALLINGS and LOU BRESLOW

Original story by ARCH OBOLER

JAMES STEWART-HENRY FONDA material by

JOHN O'HARA · Produced by BENEDICT BOGEAUS

and BURGESS MEREDITH

Directed by KING VIDOR and LESLIE FENTON

WILL HAPPEN

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and Detroit, Feb. 20th,
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"MIRACLE" from UA

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 21 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1948 TEN CENTS

US Clearance On TOA-Ascap Talks Reported

Say Clark Regards Plan As 'Sound and Legal'

Negotiations by Theatre Owners of America with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers to obtain lower theatre music licensing rates than those proposed by Ascap last summer reportedly have been given the green light by the U. S. Attorney General.

The Federal consent decree under which Ascap operates prohibits the society from discriminating in the matter of rates among licensees in the same category. Thus, if TOA obtained rates acceptable to a representative number of exhibitors, Ascap's consent decree would require it to make the same rates applicable to all other exhibitors.

Because of this, rival exhibitor organizations, Allied States among them, have indicated from time to time that any rates resulting from the TOA-Ascap negotiations might be chal-

(*Continued on page 5*)

To Oppose Curb On Theatre Building

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Sen. Buck, a member of a Senate sub-committee considering the extension of the present rent control law, said today he would fight any continuation of the Government's power to curb theatre construction, and that he though sub-committee chairman Sen. Cain felt the same way. Cain has refused to commit himself publicly on the issue.

Buck said he thought Housing Expediter Tighe Woods had indicated in his testimony before the sub-com-

(*Continued on page 5*)

US Warns of Loss Of Belgium Market

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.— Belgium and Luxembourg constitute substantial markets for U. S. films, and important ones, without any restrictions on imports and remittances; it would be well, therefore, for U. S. producers to exert as much effort as possible to supply those markets with their best possible product, says a Department of Commerce report by film consultant

(*Continued on page 5*)

9 Film Executives Are Subpoenaed by House Labor Group

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Seven film company presidents and two vice-presidents have been subpoenaed to appear before a House labor sub-committee which will open hearings on the Hollywood jurisdictional strike on Feb. 17, chairman Carroll D. Kearns disclosed here today.

The subpoenaed executives are: Barney Balaban, president of Paramount; Nate J. Blumberg, president of Universal; Jack Cohn, executive vice-president of Columbia; William C. Michel, executive vice-president of 20th Century-Fox; Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's; Spyros P. Skouras, president of

(*Continued on page 4*)

Stewart Will Manage Allied of Kan.-Mo.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 29.—Jack Stewart, now general manager of Allied Theatres of Michigan, has been engaged on decision of the board of directors, as general manager of the new Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Kansas and Missouri. Stewart, after a conference with a committee from the board, and after a mail ballot received from board members, was

(*Continued on page 5*)

SEEK TRUMAN AID ON FILM EXPORTS

Admission Tax Cut Prospects Held Dim

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Theatre Owners of America's hopes to get the Senate Finance Committee to add an admission tax cut to the Knutson tax reduction bill were jolted today by Committee Chairman Millikin.

In a speech in Philadelphia, Millikin made it plain that while he was sympathetic to the need for excise tax reforms, they would have to wait, adding that he is going to confine the Knutson Bill to income tax reduction.

"Our excise tax system is loaded with a hodge-podge of levies and inequities," Millikin told the Investors' League, "but we will be unable to

(*Continued on page 5*)

Seek Funds to Start MPF in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 29.—Some 500 theatres, exchanges and other industry organizations in the Salt Lake exchange area are being asked to donate from $10 to $25 each to raise the funds necessary for starting the Motion Picture Foundation in this territory.

Letters telling the aims of the

(*Continued on page 5*)

Johnston Puts Industry Problems, Request for Help, Before President

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Motion Picture Association of America president Eric A. Johnston today carried to the White House the industry's efforts to fare better abroad, in a 15-minute conference with President Truman.

Johnston suggested that the President support efforts to get the Government to take over the overseas "out of pocket" costs of the film and other information industries, so that these industries can continue to be an effective instrument of American foreign policy.

When asked for the President's reaction to this suggestion, Johnston said: "You'll have to ask the President."

Johnston told the President that the Smith-Mundt Bill was a great step forward in the campaign to tell America's story abroad, and pledged the full cooperation of the motion picture industry but, he said, he hoped that some way could be found to use the appropriations under the bill to repay the film industry's losses abroad and the losses of radio, magazines, newspapers and other information media.

Johnston cited the fact that film companies are losing $50,000 a month showing pictures in occupied Germany,

(*Continued on page 5*)

Act to Speed Industry Public Relations Plan

Scully and Joseph to Open Regionals Today

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—William A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager of Universal-International, accompanied by John Joseph, national director of advertising-publicity, will leave here tomorrow for San Francisco to open the first of a series of regional sales meetings. At the same time, A. J. O'Keefe, U-I assistant general sales manager, accompanied by Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director, will leave for St. Louis, where they will conduct meetings early next week.

Scully and Joseph will then join O'Keefe and Bergman in Chicago for another session next weekend. Then they will move to New York for a final regional at the home office.

Action seeking to further a public relations program for the industry was taken by the Advertising and Publicity Directors' Committee at its semi-annual election meeting yesterday when it requested an early conference with Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, and the MPAA Public Relations Committee, headed by Nate Blumberg.

Maurice Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director of Universal-International, was named chairman of the Advertising and Publicity Directors' Committee, Charles Schlaifer, 20th-Fox advertising-publicity chief, being elected head of a permanent public relations sub-committee. The latter was Bergman's predecessor as committee chairman.

In wiring his acceptance of the

(*Continued on page 4*)

McConnell Engaged As Ill. Allied Counsel

Chicago, Jan. 29.—Attorney Thomas C. McConnell has been engaged as counsel for Allied Theatres of Illinois, Jack Kirsch, president of that organization disclosed here today, following a membership meeting.

McConnell, who handled the Jackson Park Theatre case, will act as legal adviser to Allied in matters pertaining to the local organization.

McConnell stated, "my understanding with Allied is that I am to be legal adviser on problems as they arise, and there are no litigations involved to my knowledge."

Personal Mention

SAM SEIDELMAN, Eagle-Lion foreign operations manager, has returned to New York from a tour of Central and South America.

•

A. E. LICHTMAN, former Washington, D. C., exhibitor, has been named chairman of the banquet committee for Variety Clubs International's convention at Miami Beach, Fla., April 12-17.

•

H. L. DANSON, Eagle-Lion advertising manager, will speak on films and children at the United Parents' Association meeting tomorrow at Freedom House here.

•

JOHN WOLFBERG, Rocky Mountain Allied president and manager of the Broadway Theatre, Denver, has returned to that city from a Florida vacation.

•

STEVE BROIDY, Monogram-Allied Artists president, returned to the Coast yesterday from a vacation in Palm Springs.

•

MORRIS ERNST, counsel of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, left here yesterday for Washington.

•

KARL HERZOG, Film Classics vice-president and treasurer, and SIGMUND NEUFELD, producer, will fly to Hollywood today from New York.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eagle-Lion exploitation manager, is back in New York from Texas.

•

B. G. KRANZE, Film Classics vice-president of world-wide sales, will leave here Sunday for Cleveland.

•

EMILE LUSTIG, Westport International executive vice-president, is en route to France from New York.

•

WILLIAM B. JAFFE, industry attorney, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

JULES LEVEY is confined to his home here by illness.

500 Due at Carolina T.O. Meet Sunday

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 29.—More than 500 are expected to attend the 36th annual convention of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, to be held at the Hotel Charlotte here Sunday through Tuesday. Organization president Ben L. Strozier will preside and Ted Gamble and Herman Levy, president and general counsel, respectively, of the Theatre Owners of America, are slated to be the principal speakers.

The meeting will feature the annual election of officers, and discussions will be held on the industry anti-trust suit, Ascap's rate increases, 16mm. competition, advanced admissions, taxation and other problems. Tom A. Little and Walter Griffith are convention co-chairmen. On Tuesday evening, after the final session, a banquet and dance will be held at the hotel.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

ERIC JOHNSTON made another speech on Tuesday and spread on the record significant comment on the course of future production trends. Significant because a number of creative personalities in Hollywood have been uncertain about the direction following the recent Congressional sub-committee probe in Washington.

He remarked to the Protestant M. P. Council which was acclaiming Metro for "The Yearling" as the best film of 1947 on the basis of a poll of readers of *The Christian Herald* that he personally, was encouraging Hollywood to make "more pictures dealing with the pulsing forces of life today."

Johnston struck for new patterns to replace the shopworn and the formula, and added, "I think any agency of communication, entertainment or information makes a mistake when it plays down to the public and underestimates the public's intelligence. These are times which can well afford new daring and boldness and imagination. . . .

■

"I'm constantly being asked if we have clamped down on pictures which criticize this or that American institution, tradition or profession as a result of the House [Thomas] committee investigation of Hollywood. It is charged that pictures of the past dealing with controversial themes couldn't be made today. It is also said contemplated productions of this character have been abandoned. There's just no truth in that. . . .

"If a decent, sensible story happens to call for an unsympathetic character to be a banker, then a banker he can be. . . . Self-criticism is one of the great American assets. He who would water down or take away this right is the real subversive in America today and should be viewed with suspicion."

This clearly suggests a regime of intimidation, however indirect, which some felt had been suspended over Hollywood as a consequence of the House subcommittee investigation neither is acknowledged nor countenanced by Johnston and the principal companies he represents.

It is encouraging news.

■

Inevitably, a conversational stir had to follow that MOTION PICTURE DAILY story reporting Johnston's reference to his presidency of MPAA as "temporary." The remark dropped as he cited performance delivered by various of his department heads.

The Washington Bureau dug in yesterday with this result: "MPAA says no significance to Johnston's 'temporary' remark in sense of immediate retirement. He was just contrasting pretty permanent cooperation with his relatively short term in MPAA post. Does this answer you?"

It does not.

■ ■

Dave Siegel may be a producing novice by comparison with Sam Goldwyn and his embattled years in Hollywood's flamboyant scenery, but that is evidently not sufficient reason to stop him. He thinks Goldwyn's recent onslaught, on exhibition, chiefly, is ill-advised, uncalled for and harmful. Theatremen probably are immune by now, but there may be interest in Siegel's view: "I have no sympathy whatever for the crocodile tears of exhibitors. But to imply the exhibitor never involves his own investments or takes a chance, but simply hangs on the coat-tails of producers is most unfair and just as untrue. If Goldwyn, the prophet of doom, keeps talking long enough and loud enough about how chaotic the business is, he might finally be successful in persuading the financiers to refuse to invest in pictures and the general public refuse to attend them."

■ ■

Portrait of Discontent: Sidney Bernstein, sitting in daily at the Warner studio where Alfred Hitchcock is busy on "Rope," first of Transatlantic's two for that company, and knowing his Granada circuit in England will never play the film. That is, it won't if the British tax impasse continues, as most of the authorities and seers are dolorously confident it will.

■ ■

"Since 'Treasure of the Sierra Madre' has proved such a hit . . . etc.," reports Hedda Hopper in her widely circulated column. When she reported this the film had yet to get beyond the first couple of days of its first dates anywhere at the Warner Los Angeles first-runs.

Who was it that remarked Hollywood's version of West-to-East boundaries terminated at San Bernardino?

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK · Ann TODD · Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN · Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
· Spectacular Stage Presentation ·

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEORO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DANA ANDREWS · MERLE OBERON · ETHEL BARRYMORE
in A JOHN CROMWELL PRODUCTION
'NIGHT SONG'
with HOAGY CARMICHAEL

WALT DISNEY'S Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

BURT LANCASTER
LIZABETH SCOTT
in HAL WALLIS' production
"I WALK ALONE" A Paramount Picture
in Person
ANDY RUSSELL
HELEN FORREST
DICK WESSON · MACK & DESMOND
And As An Extra Added Attraction
JERRY WALD AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT · LORETTA YOUNG · DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

JEANNE CRAIN · DAN DAILEY
"YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE
LOUIS ARMSTRONG · FRED ROBBINS
JACK TEAGARDEN · EARL HINES
Extra! ROBERT LAMOURET
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S 20th CENTURY-FOX
MAYFAIR 7th Ave. & 47th St.

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*"'YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME' MEANS BETTER THAN 'MARGIE' BUSINESS TODAY!"



'YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME'

-ROXY, N. Y., BEATS SENSATIONAL OPENING DAY "MARGIE" RECORD!

*IT'S THE SAME 20th CENTURY-FOX SUCCESS STORY IN LOS ANGELES, PORTLAND, BALTIMORE AND SEATTLE !!

Strike Off as AFM Extends Radio Pacts

With members of the American Federation of Musicians slated to impose a ban on radio performances after midnight tomorrow, James C. Petrillo, head of the AFM, and heads of the four major networks yesterday signed a 60-day contract extension and also brought agreement on a new pact into view.

At the same time that the extension ended the strike threat, Petrillo withdrew the union's prohibition against simultaneous broadcasting on AM and FM programs. He also said that talks to cover terms for music on television programs, now barred by the union, would start shortly.

Gamble Enterprises And Monarch Merged

Ted Gamble has merged his Monarch Theatre interests with Gamble Enterprises, Inc., which has headquarters in Seattle. This came to light yesterday when the latter company, in which are assembled all of Gamble's holdings on the West Coast, recorded a certificate in Albany.

Gamble theatres in the East and West are now being operated under the Gamble Enterprises banner, Monarch's name having been dropped.

7 Companies Formed By New York Group

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 29.—Eight companies have been incorporated to own, operate and produce plays, motion pictures and theatres, with offices in New York City; they are: Ritz 8th Corp., Berkshire 8th Corp., College 122nd Corp., Newtown-Elm Corp., Elmwood Hoffman Corp., Park-Fifth Corp., Roebling-Wilson Corp. and Canarsie Realty Corp.

Incorporators are: William Gold, Robert Konove and Helen Ivory.

9 Film Executives

(*Continued from page* 1)

20th Century-Fox; Harry Warner, president of Warner Brothers; Herbert J. Yates, president of Republic, and N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO.

Subpoenaes for the nine were served through their attorney Berton A. Zorn.

Kearns said he expected that Samuel Goldwyn, chairman of Goldwyn Productions, and Harry Cohn, president of Columbia, would be served shortly through their attorneys.

Labor union heads involved in the Hollywood labor situation will not be served with subpoenaes, Kearns said, since all union presidents have agreed to appear before the committee.

New Hays Law Office

Will H. Hays, former president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, has opened a branch office of his law firm, Hays and Hays, in Indianapolis. The firm's home office is in Sullivan, Ind., Hays' home town.

Guild Deal Cancelled

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 29.—Blumenfeld Theatres, which acquired the Guild Theatre here three weeks ago from Robert L. Lippert, has returned the Market Street house to Lippert.

News Briefs . . .

Loew's Board Up for Reelection At Stockholders Meeting Today

All incumbent members of the board of directors of Loew's will be up for re-election today at the annual stockholders meeting here. Members of the board are: Nicholas M. Schenck, president; Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president; William F. Rodgers, distribution vice-president; J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and counsel; Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president and treasurer; Leopold Friedman, vice-president, secretary and counsel, and David Warfield, William A. Parker, Henry Rogers Winthrop and Eugene W. Leake.

Buffalo Variety Club Installs, Contributes $16,000 to Charity

BUFFALO, Jan. 29.—Presentation of $16,000 to two charities highlighted the installation of officers of the Variety Club of Buffalo, Tent No. 7, in ceremonies attended by 250 in the Hotel Statler. Guests were Thomas Mitchell, actor-director-playwright; C. J. Latta of Albany, second assistant chief barker of Variety International, and William McCraw, Dallas, executive director of Variety International. The presentations to charities were made by junior past chief barker Dewey Michaels and Andres Gibson, and went to the Variety Club-Sister Kenny Center and to the Variety Club Cerebral Palsy Clinic.

McCraw installed these officers: Chief barker, William Dipson; first assistant, Myron Gross; second assistant, Harry L. Berkson; treasurer, John G. Chinell; secretary, W. E. J. Martin.

Albany Variety Testimonial For Dick Hayes on Feb. 23

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 29.—The local Variety Club will give a testimonial in the Ten Eyck Hotel on the night of Feb. 23 to Dick Hayes who recently resigned after 20 years as a Paramount salesman. Hayes is now operating a hotel at Tupper Lake.

Many out-of-town guests are expected to attend the affair, co-chairmen of which are Edward Ruff, Paramount manager; Eugene Vogel, Universal manager, and Charles Smakwitz, assistant zone manager here of Warner Theatres.

Allied of Illinois Endorses 'American Brotherhood Week'

CHICAGO, Jan. 29. — "American Brotherhood Week," the annual observance of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Feb. 22-29, was unanimously endorsed by members of Allied of Illlinois, at a meeting held here yesterday, according to an announcement by Jack Kirsch, president.

Kirsch, in addition to being national co-chairman for the motion picture division, is co-chairman for Illinois with John Balaban of Balaban and Katz.

New Screen Guild Office

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 29.—North Star and Screen Guild sales and bookings in the area of Fargo will be served out of a sub-office to be opened in the North Dakota city about March 1, it was announced by Reno Wilk, sales and branch manager of the two exchanges in Minneapolis.

Ray Copeland Resigns as Paramount Branch Manager

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 29.—Resignation of Ray Copeland as Paramount branch manager here because of ill health was announced here today. Copeland, who first joined the company as salesman in Des Moines 25 years ago, will be honored at a branch employes luncheon Saturday.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the industry party for three retiring executives has been set for Feb. 16, with O. K. Mason, former general manager of Commonwealth Theatres; W. E. Scott, 20th Century-Fox district manager, and Copeland as honor guests.

Morris Must Show Proof By Tomorrow in WB Suit

Former Warner executive Sam E. Morris, who is suing the company for alleged breach of an employment contract on the ground that he was discharged even though the company agreed, he says, to employ him on the Coast as an adviser, must furnish Warner attorneys with verified information and documents regarding his employment not later than tomorrow or his case will be dismissed, Federal Judge John Bright ruled in U. S. District Court here yesterday. The company has filed for a dismissal. Morris' suit is for $250,000 in unpaid salary claimed.

Shea Circuit's Annual Meet Set for Tuesday in Cleveland

Annual meeting of Shea Theatre Corp. will be held at the Carter Hotel, Cleveland, on Tuesday, with Edmund C. Grainger, president, officiating.

In addition to 11 members of the home office and 23 theatre managers in the field, some 50 representatives of distributing companies, theatre service companies, production firms and other circuits will be guests.

SAG Polls Members On Actor-Agent Ties

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—Preliminary to opening of negotiations for a new contract to replace the current 10-year contract which will expire next September, Screen Actors Guild has sent a questionnaire to its membership for opinions on the relationship between actors and agents. The poll asks whether the members are satisfied with prevailing conditions and invites suggestions for improvements.

Report LA Exhibitors, 'IA' Local 150 Agree on Terms

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29.—Committees representing local exhibitors and IATSE Projectionists Local No. 150 today reached an agreement on terms of a new contract, it was learned here, but both sides are withholding formal confirmation for the present. An increase approximating 30 per cent was among the original demands made by the union.

Buchanan to Handle 'Texas'

Buchanan and Company has been appointed advertising agency to handle Golden Productions' "Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven," to be distributed by United Artists.

Boycott Threat Over 'Disgraceful' Films

Circleville, O., Jan. 29. — Boycott of the three theatres in this county seat is threatened if they show "disgraceful" films, declared officers of the newly-formed Circleville Motion Picture Council, composed of 40 persons. A "Committee of 21" from the council's membership has been appointed to solicit support among fraternal, civic and religious groups.

"The horror and rootin' tootin' pictures shown mostly on weekends will be our first target," said John Heiskell, chairman.

Public Relations

(*Continued from page* 1)

chairmanship from the Coast, where he is participating in U-I conferences, Bergman said that immediately upon his return to New York he would confer with Schlaifer on efforts to put the public relations program into work.

Schlaifer reviewed accomplishments of the committee in 1947. He cited the work of the committee in helping defeat the efforts of the New York State legislature to impose censorship on motion picture advertising.

Cites Ad Code Revision

Out of the initial efforts, he said, grew the revision of the industry's advertising code and establishment of the MPAA Public Relations Committee, formed to present a sustained story of the many constructive activities and accomplishments of the industry.

Reactions to the ad code from exhibitors were immediate and enthusiastic, Schlaifer reported, adding that before the year was out a vast amount of interest and support had been won from both the trade and lay press. He said that in cases where the industry was attacked by self-appointed critics the committee quickly took action against them.

Secured Support for Program

During the year Schlaifer made several trips across the country meeting and addressing exhibitor groups on the committee's activities and securing pledges of support for the industry's public relations campaign and the new advertising code. Most recent of these was his conference with a group of leading Southern exhibitors in Miami where a local organization was set up to expand on the program.

Besides Schlaifer, members of the committee who were active during the year were: Howard Dietz, Si Seadler, Ben Serkowich, S. Barret McCormick, Curtis Mitchell, Stanley Shuford, Paul Lazarus, Jr., Bergman, Hank Linet, Mort Blumenstock, Gil Golden, and Ulric Bell.

Resigns Circuit Post

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Jan. 29.—Bolivar F. Hyde, Jr., district manager for Florida State Theatres, Paramount affiliate, has resigned, effective Feb. 7. Hyde has been with the circuit and Paramount for 22 years. He came to St. Petersburg in 1937 to take charge of Sparks Theatres, which later became Florida Theatres. In 1942 Hyde was appointed district supervisor.

TOA-Ascap

(*Continued from page* 1)

lenged on the grounds of conspiracy between TOA and Ascap in developing them.

Presumably taking cognizance of such a possibility, Ted R. Gamble, TOA president; Robert W. Coyne, executive director, and Herman Levy, general counsel, this week conferred with Attorney General Tom Clark in Washington, acquainting him with the writers' Ascap problem and outlining TOA's procedure in dealing with it.

Stand Held 'Sound, Legal'

According to unconfirmed but reliable reports, Clark was noncommittal on promising anything, but told the TOA delegation that its position was "sound and legal."

In its negotiations with Ascap, TOA has taken the position that the society must propose new rates for theatre licensees which must be drastically lower than the 300 per cent increases proposed by the society originally. Failing that, TOA would take other action against Ascap.

However, if the rates advanced by Ascap as a result of the negotiations were deemed "reasonable" by TOA, the national exhibitor organization would do no more than recommend their acceptance by exhibitors.

Talks Won Postponement

The TOA negotiations already have won postponements in the effective date for increased theatre rates from Nov. 1, 1947, to March 15, 1948.

Gamble had not returned to New York from Washington up to late yesterday and could not be reached for comment on the report concerning the Attorney General's approval of TOA's negotiations with Ascap. Coyne and Levy are in Richmond, Va., attending a convention of the Virginia MPTA and could not be reached for comment either.

Truman Aid

(*Continued from page* 1)

Japan, Korea and Austria alone. He reminded the President that in every European country, except Czechoslovakia and Russia, American films are playing an important part in combatting Communists fighting us in all areas dominated by the Soviet Union. An ordinary American film showing American workers having their own automobiles makes a tremendous impression on the masses of Europeans, Johnston told reporters after leaving the President.

MPAA officials said that Johnston reviewed as much of the foreign situation as his 15 minutes allowed, and presumably discussed the British tax deadlock, although not at length.

Belgium Market

(*Continued from page* 1)

Nathan D. Golden. The report warns that both countries are becoming critical of recent American films.

The report points out that the two countries have had adequate dollar exchange over the past two years, and declares that there are no immediate indications of a change in financial conditions.

According to the report, the eight major U. S. companies received $7,310,408 in rentals from Belgium alone in 1946. Of this, $6,168,157 was converted into dollars.

Reviews

"If You Knew Susie"

(RKO Radio)

THE title of the song so closely identified with Eddie Cantor has inspired a picture containing the type of comedy favored by most members of most families. The material provided in the Warren Wilson-Oscar Brodney screenplay was combed and recombed under the astute direction of Gordon M. Douglas for every possible laugh. The film deals in broad, understandable humor most of the time in a manner so successful that there can be no question of the production's performance at the box-office.

Cantor displays no diminution in energy and enthusiasm in his latest screen venture. Teamed with him is Joan Davis, who matches him in zing and exuberance. Between them they make the picture a fast-paced, volatile and highly amusing example of how to entertain the public.

Cantor and Miss Davis deliver a steady barrage of hilarity as retired vaudevillians who have a tough time trying to get accepted in a small town where early American ancestry is of first consideration. The story treats of their efforts to prove themselves of old and famous American stock. The complications that ensue will have audiences laughing their heads off. It all starts when Cantor and Miss Davis find a document citing an ancestor for heroism and directing that he be rewarded with a gift of $50,000. The realization that compound interest over so many years would bring the sum to some $7,000,000,000 stirs a sensation. The two become heroes when, aware of what payment of such a sum would do to the national government, they waive their claim to the money.

A number of extremely popular tunes, among them the title number, add zest to the proceedings.

The stars are well supported by Allyn Joslyn, Charles Dingle, Bobby Driscoll, Sheldon Leonard, Joe Sawyer, and others. Cantor produced the film, with a sharp eye to showmanship values. Jack J. Gross was executive producer. The direction of Douglas never allows the interest and fun to sag and is responsible for a good deal of the film's entertainment.

Running time, 90 minutes. General audience classification. Release set for February. P.E.L.

"Western Heritage"

(RKO Radio)

WHEN RKO sets out to make a standard Western, it certainly can do the job well. "Western Heritage" sticks to formula all the way, but in cast, production and story it easily takes its place with the better of the horse operas. Featured in the Herman Schlom production are Tim Holt, Nan Leslie, Richard Martin and Lois Andrews.

The screenplay has a group of outlaws taking possession of a forged land grant which gives them ownership of an entire valley. Attempted evictions follow, marked by the usual skullduggery and gunplay. Holt, as one of the upholders of the law, is kept busy all along until justice is finally accomplished. Miss Leslie and Miss Holt, in minor feminine roles, pleasantly embellish the activities. The accent of the Norman Houston original screenplay is on action. Wallace A. Grissell directed. Others in the cast are Tony Barrett, Walter Reed and Harry Woods.

Running time, 61 minutes. General audience classification. Set for January release. MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"The Idiot"

(Andre Lelarge—C.E.D.)

THE delicate task of bringing to the screen Dostoyevsky's towering novel, "The Idiot," is a feat which many discriminating filmgoers will hail. The Dostoyevsky characters, concerned more with deep emotional conflicts than plotted action, are at best difficult to capture with the camera. Nonetheless, this French-made drama has a good deal to commend, with many isolated scenes truly vivid and imaginative.

At the core of the story is Myshkin, that strange and brooding, at times Christlike character, whose yearnings for moral perfection are thwarted by his human limitations. This extremely difficult role is given a superb interpretation by Gerard Philippe. Dominating the feminine roles are Nastasia Philipovna as the salvation-seeking woman who meets death at the hands of her lover, and Aglae, the pure-in-heart who goes off to a fate unknown. Edwige Feuillere and Nathalie Nattier, respectively, do well in these characterizations.

All told, it is a pleasing, definitely adult, picture that should be an especially worthy contender for the art houses. Produced by Sacha Gordine, Georges Lampin directed, from a screenplay and dialogue by Charles Spaak.

Running time, 100 minutes. Adult audience classification. Set for February release. M. H.

To Oppose Curb

(*Continued from page* 1)

mittee that the volume of theatre construction was not very important, and since here is no way of assuring that the materials saved went into housing, he could see no reason for keeping the curb.

The sub-committee is scheduled to complete its hearings Saturday and report a measure to the full committee by February 5.

Salt Lake MPF

(*Continued from page* 1)

Foundation and reviewing its progress were sent yesterday by Don V. Tibbs, chairman. They explain that part of the money is to assist in defraying expenses of Sam Gillette, Toledo exhibitor, who attended the MPF December meeting in New York, where he was elected to the national executive committee, and also for attending the March meeting of the Foundation.

UTA Seeks Tax-free Children's Tickets

Salt Lake City, Jan. 29.—The Utah Theatres Association is contacting exhibitors in this state urging them to ask their Congressmen not only to repeal the Federal 20 per cent ticket tax and substitute a 10 per cent levy, but also to make children's tickets completely tax-free.

Anderson Appointed New UTO Secretary

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 29.—Ralph Trathen has resigned as secretary-treasurer of the Utah Theatres Association, which he has served as an officer since its organization three years ago. He was the first president and has served as secretary for two years. He is succeeded by Victor Anderson, Orem theatreman. Trathen is manager of the Tower in Salt Lake.

Tax Cut Prospects

(*Continued from page* 1)

enter all of the gardens of this heaven of tax reduction in one jump."

Pointing out that the House Ways and Means Committee staff was studying the excise situation as well as such problems as double taxation of corporate dividends, loss carry-over periods, and the tax on excessive accumulation of surplus, Millikin said, "We look forward to surpluses which will warrant reductions and corrections in addition to those involved in the first step of income tax reduction. First, reasonable debt reduction accompanied by income tax reduction, and then, as soon as possible, relief in other fields."

Stewart Will Manage

(*Continued from page* 1)

elected unanimously. He will assume his duties in Kansas City about Feb. 15.

He was at one time head of the European office of First National, was later branch manager for the same company in the U. S., was on the road for several years for Universal in Kansas and Michigan and for the past two years has been general manager of Allied of Michigan, with headquarters in Detroit.

O. F. Stewart is president of the Kansas-Missouri Allied organization.

Compton Promoted

Lawrence Phillips, director of DuMont Television, here, has appointed Walter Compton as general manager of its station WTTG, Washington.

FILM TECHNICIANS WANTED AS SALES REPRESENTATIVES

We are expanding our national sales organization and have valuable openings for men capable of demonstrating and selling nationally-advertised professional 16 MM-35MM film laboratory equipment. Exclusive territories guaranteed, leads furnished, high earnings, assured to men acquainted with film field and sincerely interested in building profitable, permanent association with soundly established company. Write, giving full details, to MICRO ENGINEERING CORPORATION, 118 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

FOR THE FIRST TIME...

For the first time in motion picture magazine history, a group of publishing companies has joined forces to form the

ASSOCIATION OF SCREEN MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS, INC

The Association has as its primary purpose the continuing exploration of advertising and exploitation problems common to the motion picture industry and screen magazine publishers—in order to best promote the mutual interests of both. It is represented in the screen field by 12 monthly publications with a combined circulation of nearly 8,000,000 and a readership in excess of 20,000,000. As their initial venture, the Association has just completed a two-year survey, revealing facts and figures of vital boxoffice importance.



DELL PUBLICATIONS

FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS

HILLMAN PUBLICATIONS

HUNTER SCREEN UNIT

IDEAL PUBLICATIONS

MACFADDEN PUBLICATIONS

At a date soon to be announced, these startling facts will be presented to the industry's leaders in New York and Hollywood.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 22 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1948 TEN CENTS

Loew's Marks $10 Millions For Expansion

All Directors, Officers Reelected; Add 2 More

Loew's surplus of approximately $10,000,000 has been earmarked for theatre expansion in the event that theatre divorcement is not ordered by the Supreme Court.

This was brought out on Friday during the company's annual stockholders meeting here, and at which the entire board of directors was unanimously reelected. Following the meeting the board met and reelected all company officers and added two more vice-presidents, studio executive Louis K. Sidney and executive producer Joseph Judson Cohn.

Disclosure of the company's theatre expansion intentions was made by vice-president and general counsel J.

(*Continued on page 3*)

MGM Firings Have Ended: Moskowitz

M-G-M's economy campaign is unlikely to progress beyond the point it has now reached, insofar as reduction of personnel is concerned, but the "spirit of economy" will continue at the studio in terms of reduced shooting time, intensified employee duties, and other cost-saving factors in production. This was revealed here on Friday by Charles C. Moskowitz, Loew-M-G-M vice-president and treasurer, who recently returned from Hollywood, where he surveyed production costs. M-G-M, like other film companies, launched an economy drive

(*Continued on page 3*)

Ask Venue Shift for Un-American Trials

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Attorneys for 10 Hollywood figures soon to be tried for contempt of Congress have filed with the District Court here a double motion asking that their trials be transferred from the District of Columbia, and that the case against the 10 be dismissed.

William Hitz, U. S. attorney who will prosecute the trials, said that al-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Canadian Industry Looks for Tax Cuts

Ottawa, Feb. 1.—There is optimism in film circles here that tax reductions may result from the Canadian government's report that its surplus in December was $73,300,000 and the cumulative balance for the first nine months of the fiscal year reached $646,200,000.

SIMPP Future in Clouds at Present

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Whether or not the activities and influence of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers will be as extensive in the future as they have been in the recent years is being widely debated here as the organization prepares to carry on despite an apparent waning interest among its membership and without a leader of the national stature of Donald M. Nelson, whose resignation as SIMPP president became effective yesterday.

It is no secret here that numerous SIMPP members are delinquent in their financial support of the organization, presumably waiting to see the direction it will now take before committing themselves to its long-term future. It is reported that SIMPP is exploring the possibilities of obtaining financial assistance from United Artists, many of the producers for whom it distributes having made up the numerical strength of the organization.

It is understood that few SIMPP members have resigned, preferring to take a wait-and-see attitude, but it is increasingly evident that the principal remaining support for the organization's continuance is restricted to such producers as David Selznick and Samuel Goldwyn, who were instrumental in its formation.

Lutzer and Peckham Promoted by Kranze

B. G. Kranze, distribution vice-president of Film Classics, has promoted Jake Lutzer, Dallas branch manager, to Southern division head, with supervision over Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Dallas, Memphis, New Orleans and Oklahoma City, with headquarters in Dallas.

At the same time, Ralph Peckham has been promoted by Kranze from Atlanta to be branch head of Dallas, and has also appointed Ralph McCoy to succeed Peckham as head of the Atlanta branch. Ted Birnbaum, recently with Rank-Universal-International, joins Film Classics' home office sales department in a supervisory capacity.

WOULD AID FILMS IN MARSHALL PLAN

'306' Pact Awaits Return of Walsh

Settlement by IATSE projectionists' Local 306 here and representatives of local affiliated circuits of "the few minor details" preliminary to signing a new contract based on wage rate increases won after "IA" international president Richard F. Walsh was called in on the negotiations, will await the return to New York of Walsh from Miami where he was expected to be this week.

This has been reported here by "306" president Herman Gelber, who said Walsh "has played a very important part" thus far in the negotiations, and his presence will be needed for the ironing out of the minor details.

Walsh's office here reported at the weekend that he was expected to return East by plane from Hollywood today but it is likely that he will fly di-

(*Continued on page 3*)

5 Theatres Named In Percentage Suits

Loew's and RKO Radio have instituted percentage actions in U. S. District Court here, naming as defendants Sidney Cohen, Philip Eisenberg, Rhinehook Theatres and Millerton Amusement Corp. The corporate defendants are units in the Eisenberg and Cohen circuit, and are owners of four upstate N. Y. theatres, the Star, Rhinebeck; Lyceum, Red Hook; Pine Plains, Pine Plains; Millerton at

(*Continued on page 3*)

Lorber, Paramount Veteran, Resigns

Herman J. Lorber, veteran of 31 years with the Paramount sales organization, has resigned from the company, it was announced on Friday. Lorber left immediately on a vacation trip without announcing his future plans.

At the time of his resignation he was home office liaison with Mideastern division headquarters in Philadelphia and assistant to Earle W. Sweigert, division manager there. Lorber also assisted with circuit selling in New York. He held numerous posts with Paramount and during the 1920's was assigned to England and the Continent. Paramount said he "leaves under most amicable circumstances."

Joint Congressional Unit Recommends Currency Conversion Privileges

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—A special Congressional committee has recommended that any guaranties in Marshall Plan legislation for the conversion of local currencies by American enterprises in Europe include conversion by the film industry and other information media.

Under the present draft of the European Recovery Program legislation, the ERP administrator can guarantee any investment in projects he has approved, providing that "the guarantee to any person shall not exceed the amount of dollars invested . . . and shall be limited to the transfer into U. S. dollars of other currencies or credits in such currencies received as income from the approved investment as repayment or return thereof, in whole or in part, or as compensation for the sale or disposition of all or any part thereof."

The joint committee would, in effect, amend this to specifically include information media in

(*Continued on page 4*)

Wilson Would Block GB-Odeon Pooling

LONDON, Feb. 1.—An amendment to the British film quota bill, seen here to be a move to block the proposed pooling of J. Arthur Rank's Gaumont-British and Odeon circuits, has been introduced in Commons by British Board of Trade president Harold Wilson.

The amendment, dealing with the clause covering a special quota for

(*Continued on page 4*)

Forty Will Attend NTS Meeting Today

Managers of National Theatre Supply's 28 branches and the company's executive staff will attend the opening today of the company's first general meeting since 1941. It will be held at the Park Central Hotel here, and will continue through Thursday. Forty will attend.

The theme of the meeting, to be un-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

STANTON GRIFFIS, U. S. Ambassador to Poland, had a half-hour conference with PRESIDENT TRUMAN on Friday.

•

BEN GOETZ, head of M-G-M production in Britain, and MRS. GOETZ; JENNIFER JONES, and STAN LAUREL and MRS. LAUREL are among passengers due here today from England on the *SS Queen Mary*.

•

CAROL BRANDT, head of M-G-M's Eastern editorial activities, and OLIN H. CLARK, Eastern story editor, are due back in New York today from Hollywood.

•

FRANK WESTBROOK, Paramount salesman in Omaha, has been transferred to Denver. His successor is PAT HALLORAN, formerly with 20th Century-Fox in Omaha.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, head of M-G-M short subject sales, has returned here from Boston and Albany, N. Y.

•

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, Warner vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, is due back in New York today from Los Angeles.

•

ARGYLE NELSON, Selznick studio production manager, left Hollywood at the weekend for New York en route to Sweden.

•

L. J. KAUFMAN, Warner Theatre executive, left New York over the weekend for Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

•

JOHN J. JONES, Screen Guild president, left Hollywood at the weekend for New York.

•

GEORGE GALOS of Galos Circuit, Chicago, has left that city for a Florida vacation.

To Seek Film Aid On New Bond Drive

Motion picture industry aid for the Treasury's new bond drive, to be known as the "Security Loan Drive," which will run from April 15 to June 15, will be sought at a meeting to be held in Washington, March 18 to 20.

An invitation will be extended to set up a motion picture committee within the industry which would make arrangements for newsreel clips and trailers concerning the drive. Indications are that personal appearances of stars will not be sought. Industry leaders say they have not been officially advised of plans for the drive as no conferences have been held yet with Treasury officials.

Engel Gets 39 Features

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1.—Jack Engel, distributor here for Screen Guild, will distribute Masterpiece product in the area it was announced by Jules Weill, president of Masterpiece. Product comprises 26 features, plus 13 "Hopalong Cassidy."

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

BRITAIN'S Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, exposed himself before the House of Commons last week to the extent of revealing that it is, after all, Britain that is doing the "squeezing" in the matter of the confiscatory duty on imported films.

The question of who was doing it to whom had been raised a week earlier in Commons by Harold Wilson, president of the British Board of Trade. Wilson told Commons if Hollywood believes it can "squeeze us into modifying our attitude on the *ad valorem* tax" it is backing a loser.

Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, promptly retorted that it is Britain, not Hollywood, that is doing the "squeezing."

Cripps proved Johnston's charge correct when he told Commons last Tuesday that Britain is not prepared to substitute for the tax any proposal for blocking American film earnings in Britain.

Moreover, he asserted that the British government refuses to abandon its confiscatory tax on imported films.

Sir Stafford's meaning, and his government's intentions, could not have been made clearer had he said in so many words: "We are putting the 'squeeze' on Hollywood and we are determined to keep on applying it!"

•

During the past six months, Britons in both official and unofficial capacities have been encouraging the American film industry to propose "alternatives" to the confiscatory film tax. The American industry has responded with plans designed to relieve the drain on Britain's desperately short dollar supply, albeit such proposals have involved the long-term blocking of very large percentages of the earnings of American films in Britain, all of which have been rejected.

Thus Britain takes the position that while its 75 per cent ad valorem film tax is open to negotiation, the result of any and all negotiations must be the permanent retention by Britain of 75 per cent of American film earnings there.

What, it may be asked, does that leave to negotiation?

And who, it may be asked additionally, does that leave doing the "squeezing?"

It is true that Britain did wait anxiously for an American suggestion, which all the time it was willing to grant, that the earnings of British films in America could be retained here, in addition to the withdrawal from Britain of 25 per cent of the earnings of American films there.

When that suggestion was not forthcoming from America, the British government placed the words, first, in the mouth of Sir Henry French. No one over here rose to that paltry bait and, in pique, Wilson disclosed its official nature by reciting it in his remarks to Commons.

•

Adding insult to injury, this British proposal is advanced as a permanent solution; the 75 per cent British film tax to continue in effect.

It is to be wondered whether the British are so naive as to believe that the American Congress would continue to permit British films to enter this country tax-free while a confiscatory 75 per cent duty is imposed on American films entering Britain?

And if a corollary 75 per cent ad valorem duty is imposed on British films entering this country, what would that leave of the earnings of those films here to be distributed among 20 or more American companies and independent producers? Hardly enough to pay bookkeeping costs.

Now that Cripps has made it clear that Britain regards its 75 per cent tax as a permanent instrument, it would seem to be a matter beyond the realm of trade negotiation.

The industry should turn the problem over to Washington, where it now belongs.

The British government has made it clear that the situation warrants either parallel retaliatory action against British films entering this country, to be accomplished by legislation, or provisional guaranties within the European Recovery Plan that aid shall not be given, or shall be given in restricted measure, to nations maintaining confiscatory legislation against American trade.

The time has come for the American industry to insist in Washington that alien motion pictures receive no better treatment here than is accorded American films abroad.

Newsreel Parade

THE Navy's new "walking barge," and an award to "Gentleman's Agreement" from the New York film critics are among current newsreel events. Other items include Friendship Food delivered overseas and sports and human interest events. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 9—Millions of Hindus bathe in Ganges in holy festival. Record cold wave hits nation. U. S. Navy displays new "walking barge." "Gentleman's Agreement" named best picture of 1947 by film critics. Baby tigers learn about circus life. Skiing, boxing.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 243—Germans demonstrate as unrest sweeps Bizonia. Food for Italy. Hindu festival. Tiger-trainers begin spring training. "Walking barge" for Navy. Clothes for cycling. Water-school for babies. Boxing.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 46—U. S. faces crisis in oil. Overseas aid from CARE. Navy develops "walking barge." No-burn door demonstrated. Science probes silent sound. Skiing.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 113—Cold wave grips East. Navy's "walking barge" tested. Fire-proof door tested. Family of nine find shelter in fire house. Twenty-six St. Bernard pups born on same day. Wool fashions. Ski classic.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 48—Mother of three vets made a citizen. Demonstrate fire-proof paint. Navy barge "walks" ashore. Tots train tiger cubs. Friendship Food in Italy. Royal sweethearts on skiis.

New Hearing Sought By ASCAP in Wash.

American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers will apply to the Washington supreme court at Olympia this week for permission to reargue the case brought by the state attorney general in which the court recently held that Ascap has not complied with state laws and therefore is disqualified from doing business in Washington.

The court held that Ascap had included musical compositions in the public domain among the works in its repertoire which the state law compels it to keep on file. Ascap contends that it had not laid claim to the original compositions in the public domain, but to new arrangements of them copyrighted by Ascap members. The petition for reargument is being prepared by Schwartz and Frohlich, Ascap attorneys, here.

Theatres Unaffected By Steel Supply Plan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1. — Theatres and other steel users would not have to reduce their consumption of steel as a result of Secretary of Commerce Harriman's request to the steel industry to channel output to certain essential users, the Government official declared at the weekend. Only about 10 per cent would be channelled, he said, adding that he hoped increased production would make as much steel available for other consumers as previously.

There are no plans to ask the industry to restrict steel from any user, he declared, but merely to funnel supplies to key areas and let everyone scramble for the rest.

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News Briefs

Church Documentary Film Premiere Here Tomorrow

"The Church and the Atomic Age," first subject of a series known as "In the Eyes of the Church," will have a premiere showing tomorrow at Town Hall here before an invited audience of 2,000 prominent in religious and community affairs. The series has the endorsement of Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America. It is the work of Dean Charles E. McAllister of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Spokane.

The series will be available to churches of all denominations and to non-church groups, and distribution will be on a local and regional basis, with headquarters at Film Forum Foundation, Spokane.

TOA Collected $100,000 In Dues Last Year

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 1.—Theatre Owners of America collected more than $100,000 in dues last year, according to Morris Loewenstein, secretary, who cites the 1947 financial report as his source. "We are gaining strength and still we've only scratched the surface," he declares. Loewenstein will join Ted Gamble, president; Robert Coyne, executive director and Herman Levy, counsel, in Dallas this week at the Texas TOA meeting.

LeBeau Named Paramount Manager Succeeding R. M. Copeland

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 1.—R. C. LiBeau has taken over the management of Paramount's office here with the resignation of branch manager R. M. Copeland. Supervision of the St. Louis, Des Moines and Omaha offices will be discontinued by LiBeau.

AMPA Launches Program Survey

Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' acting president Phil Williams has named a committee of five members to survey the organization's program requirements. The committee, which has been instructed to report to the AMPA board on March 15, includes: Robert Wile, Jacques Kopfstein, Hap Hadley, Max Stein and Evelyn Koleman.

Senate Backs Coy, Sterling

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Nominations of Wayne Coy as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and George E. Sterling as commissioner were confirmed by the Senate on Friday.

WANTED

Office space and telephone service. Film executive wants small office or office space located in midtown area, New York City. Box 407 M. P. DAILY, 1270 Sixth Ave., New York 20.

WANTED

Secretary, stenographer with film distribution or exhibition company experience. State salary required and details of experience. Box 406. M. P. DAILY, 1270 Sixth Ave., New York 20.

Loew's Expansion

(*Continued from page* 1)

Robert Rubin, who was the meeting chairman, when a number of stockholders recommended that the surplus be used by the company to purchase its common stock on the open market as is being done presently by Paramount and has been done by Warners.

To Weigh Stock-buying

Rubin said the board will take under advisement the stockholders' recommendation, which was aimed at fortifying Loew's stock against a possible decline in its market value. Paramount adopted its stock-buying program to aid in the purchase of theatre properties from partners willing to dispose of their interests and has used part of such stock for acquisition of Liberty Films and Rainbow Productions.

Officers reelected on Friday were: Nicholas M. Schenck, president; Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president; William F. Rodgers, distribution vice-president; Rubin; Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president and treasurer; Leopold Friedman, vice-president, secretary and counsel; vice-presidents Edgar J. Mannix, Alexander Lichtman, Howard Dietz, Benjamin Thau and Marvin H. Schenck; assistant treasurers Charles K. Stern and R. Lazarus; controller and assistant secretary, Jesse T. Mills; assistant secretaries, Nicholas Nayfack, Irving H. Greenfield and Harold J. Cleary.

Reelected directors were: David Warfield, William A. Parker, Henry Rogers Winthrop, Eugene W. Leake, Schenck, Vogel, Rodgers, Rubin, Moskowitz and Friedman.

Second Quarter Earnings Up

Stockholders were told: (1) Earnings for the first eight weeks of the second quarter of the current fiscal year show an improvement over the first quarter; (2) Since the company was founded in 1923, stockholders received a total of $117,000,000 in dividends; (3) Since its founding there was no year in which the company's operations did not show a profit; (4) company's phonograph record manufacturing division, which began operations last March, is already operating "in the black"; (5) Loew's is fully equipped to enter the theatre television field "when the time is ripe"; (6) book value of the company's stock is now $28 per share; (7) company is confident it can operate at a profit even if the British market is not restored.

Racial Intolerance Films Kept Off M-G-M Production Agenda

M-G-M, taking into consideration that there are a number of areas in the U. S. where pictures dealing with racial and religious intolerance might not be received favorably, will not produce such films, J. Robert Rubin, Loew's vice-president and general counsel, told company stockholders on Friday in reply to a stockholder's question. The stockholder had advised against production of such pictures.

Motion Picture Association of America president Eric A. Johnston has stated on several occasions that the industry will increase its production of pictures designed to combat intolerance.

37½c Loew's Dividend

Directors of Loew's, Inc., have declared a quarterly dividend of 37½ cents per share on the common stock, payable March 31 to stockholders of record March 12.

Percentage Suits

(*Continued from page* 1)

Millerton; and the Stuart in Lakeville, Conn.

Louis Nizer of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim is attorney for Loew's and RKO.

Three More Percentage Suits Filed in Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—Three percentage suits were filed here Friday by Paramount, Loew's and 20th Century-Fox, in U. S. District Court, naming Kenneth H. Forkey, Edward Markell, and Simon Markell, as well as five corporations with which they are said to be associated.

Among theatres involved, all of which are in Massachusetts, are the Strand in Canton; Magnet, Dorchester; Mattapan, Mattapan; Park and Greendale, Worcester; Porter Square, Cambridge; and Strand in Boston.

Percentage Suits Settled By R. I. and Mass. Theatres

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 1.—Percentage suits brought by Paramount, Loew's, 20th-Fox, RKO, Warner, United Artists, Universal and Columbia against the Castle Theatre, Mt. Pleasant, R. I., and the Majestic, West Springfield, have been ended in Federal Court here. Termination of the actions followed the filing of stipulations that the defendants had paid the plaintiffs amounts agreed to be due.

MGM Firings End

(*Continued from page* 1)

following the imposition of the British *ad valorem* tax on film imports.

Loew's stockholders were informed by vice-president and general counsel J. Robert Rubin at their meeting here Friday that the cost of pictures currently being produced will be substantially lower than formerly because of the economy measures that have been taken.

Although "some of the benefits from these economies will be felt this year," Rubin said, "the full effect will be evidenced in operations next year."

Cold Cuts Number At Tri-State Meet

MEMPHIS, Feb. 1.—Severe weather conditions which closed most of the highways narrowed attendance at the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas meeting on Friday to 18 out-of-town exhibitors. Robert Coyne, executive director of Theatre Owners of America, and Morris Loewenstein, secretary, were among those whose appearance at the meeting was prevented, Coyne's plane having been grounded in Atlanta.

M. A. Lightman, head of Malco Theatres, spoke on the campaign he recently inaugurated here to educate the public on the role of the motion picture in the community. Orris Collins, president of the Tri-State MPTO, said that most of the association would probably adopt Lightman's program.

Among those attending were: Emil Bernstecker, secretary-treasurer of Tennessee TOA; W. R. Holder, executive secretary of Tennessee TOA; Max Connett, president of Mississippi TOA; E. W. Savage, president of Independent Theatre Owners of Arkansas and Sam Kirby, Arkansas ITO secretary.

RKO Will Reward 'Best Showmanship'

Sol A. Schwartz, vice-president of RKO Theatres, at a meeting attended by RKO managers in the New York area, revealed on Friday that commencing March 1, the circuit will reward outstanding showmanship of RKO managers.

'306' Pact

(*Continued from page* 1)

rectly to Miami. The American Federation of Labor executive board is currently meeting in Miami, and Walsh is scheduled to attend that meeting as well as the AFL "League for Political Education" executive meetings which will follow in Miami.



Argentine Foreign Film Ban Is Official

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 1.—The Argentine Government has taken definite action to bar all foreign films from exhibition in the country. United States pictures will suffer most in the move. No explanation of the action has been forthcoming from the Argentine Bureau of Public Shows, which suspended approval of all foreign product, and from the Subsecretariat of Information, under which the bureau operates.

The belief is that the move was taken in retaliation against an assertedly exorbitant levy placed on Argentine films by Spain.

Hope was expressed in film circles that some way might be found to enable U. S. and other foreign films to continue to be shown in Argentina.

Block GB-Odeon

(*Continued from page* 1)

theatres in "circuits of over 200," seeks powers to refuse a theatre the special license unless it is proved that control and booking policy have been unchanged since Jan. 1, 1948. With government backing, the amendment is sure to be carried.

Meanwhile, Oliver Lyttleton introduced an amendment to the bill suggesting a quota of 35 per cent. Bill will come up for committee consideration on Tuesday.

NTS Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

der the direction of W. E. Green, president, will be: "General Sales Plans and Policies for 1948." Items on the agenda, exclusive of discussing a new NTS line, will include ways and means of improving service to exhibitors, plans for the wider distribution and sale of popcorn and associated products, a drive-in theatre equipment program, visits to International Projector's plant in Bloomfield, N. J., and General Precision laboratories at Pleasantville. The meeting will conclude Thursday evening with a buffet supper and cocktail party at Renato's Restaurant in Greenwich Village.

Those attending will include National's branch managers, as follows: R. P. Rosser, Jr., J. H. Kelley, F. J. Masek, A. C. Schuyler, C. Williamson, B. N. Peterson, A. de Stefano, A. J. Larsen, A. T. Cramer N. F. Williams, W. C. Earle, W. J. Hutchins, N. C. Haefele, H. J. McKinney, V. G. Sandford, A. G., Smith, R. W. Pries, J. C. Brown, W. G. Boling, R. L. Bostick, T. W. Neely, J. I. Watkins, J. J. Morgan, J. B. Stone, Lloyd C. Ownbey, H. H. Randall, C. L. Chiniquy.

Also: Harry D. Epting, manager of National's air conditioning department; J. Goshorn, theatre seating department; and personnel of General Precision, including J. W. Servies, W. J. Turnbull, A. J. Lindsley, J. E. Currie, Arthur F. Baldwin, A. W. Meyer and C. F. Alexander.

Un-American Trials

(*Continued from page* 1)

though the motion did not ask that the trials be transferred to any specific place, the desirability of California was implied.

In an 89-page memo, attorneys for the 10 declared that a fair trial could not be held in Washington because of the "fever heat" with which Communist activity is regarded here.

The Government must answer the motion by Feb. 10, and argument on it will be heard Feb. 13. The first trial, that of John Howard Lawson, is slated for Feb. 24.

Aid Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

the guarantee. Exactly how this might work out for the film industry would depend of course on the administrator, but industry officials here were obviously cheered by the committee recommendation.

The recommendation came in the report of a joint House-Senate group, headed by Rep. Karl Mundt and Senator H. Alexander Smith. They were appointed last June to observe the government's information program abroad.

Report Praises Industry

The report, full of praise for the film industry and repeatedly stressing the need of some solution to the frozen funds and blocked currency problem, makes several recommendations on a motion picture program. It repeats the demand heard so frequently here lately for quality export, with a special slap at "some" independents, and urges an increased supply of documentary and non-commercial feature films be shipped abroad. To supplement showings by the U. S. Information Service, it suggests, efforts should be made to arrange commercial distribution of documentaries overseas by block booking them with American commercial features.

Laud MPEA Aid

"Motion pictures are tremendously popular in every country of Europe," the report states, "and have been until recently almost the only means of bringing the American scene to the mass of Europeans. Without in any way wishing to condemn the many excellent American pictures shown, an erroneous impression of America has at times been given by certain of the commercial films. Two things are necessary. First, better quality pictures, depicting the highest standards of American life, must be sent abroad. Cooperation from the Motion Picture Export Association, so decidedly helpful in the past, should continue to make improvement feasible. The committee feels that the assistance of the MPEA deserves special commendation and believes that if certain of the independent companies who have been laggard will join in the effort, the problem can readily be solved. Second, the supply abroad of documentary and non-commercial feature films, in fields insufficiently covered commercially, should be increased."

Ask Bolstered Program

Other recommendations on the film program were: Ample personnel and facilities for a film program in each USIS center, with one or more mobile film units apiece; all films shown by the USIS should be dubbed or at least captioned in the language of the country; 16 mm. newsreels should be provided by airmail to each USIS office; technical and other specialized documentaries in the Soviet satellite nations to fill the huge demand which the Soviet union cannot meet.

The block booking of documentaries by Hollywood along with commercial features is emphasized in a separate report by Sen. Lodge. "The result would be that our educational films would get into the larger theatres before the mass audiences where they would have their most effective force," Lodge states.

Reviews

"The Sign of the Ram"

(*Columbia*)

"THOSE born under Aries, the Sign of the Ram," according to the astrologers, "are endowed with strong will-power, determination and obstinacy of purpose; they will stop at nothing to accomplish their desires, and sometimes meet a violent death."

In transforming this thesis to the screen, producer Irving Cummings, Jr., assembled a substantial cast of competent players, displayed a liberal hand in selecting sets and settings, and helped to prove that an able performer who has suffered a physical handicap is not less able a performer in consequence. The last reference is to Susan Peters who, as a result of a [illegible] serious accident three years ago has been confined to a wheelchair ever since, and for whom this picture marks a screen comeback.

That Miss Peters' return is a screen event of proportions will very likely be demonstrated at the box-office, but her fans may find sorely disappointing the casting of her in an unsympathetic role—that of a wheelchair-ridden young matron who practices unpardonable deceit and treachery to accomplish the selfish purpose of keeping her husband and step-children veritable slaves to her benevolent tyranny. And discriminating audiences might well deplore the gushing sentimentality that pervades the script which, from time to time, requires Miss Peters to recite unimaginative and dolefully drivelous verse. The film's final scene, like two others wherein the imminence of tragedy is sensed, is charged with dramatic impact. In it, Miss Peters, exposed as having planned the near-tragic consequences aimed at preventing two of her step-children from marrying, wheels her chair from her Cornwall manor to the nearby cliffs and casts herself over the edge to her death on the rocky coast below.

Co-starring with Miss Peters are Alexander Knox, Phyllis Thaxter and Peggy Ann Garner, all of whom perform adequately notwithstanding the limitations imposed by the sedentary, heavily conversational screenplay which confines the "action" largely to the spacious, beautifully-appointed rooms of the English manor house. Commensurate performances are contributed by a good supporting cast which includes Ron Randell, Dame May Whitty, Allene Roberts, Ross Ford and Diana Douglas.

This film is due to be most cordially received by women patrons, for its attention is focussed mainly on its distaff characters, their emotional conflicts, their psychological burdens. John Sturges quite apparently directed with that end in view, and with leisurely pace and a respect for detail. The screenplay is by Charles Bennett, based upon a novel by Margaret Ferguson.

Running time, 84 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date not set.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"A Miracle Can Happen"

(*Bogeaus-United Artists*)

MORE stars were assembled for Benedict Bogeaus' free-wheeling comedy than most exhibitors' marquees can accommodate. Involved are such saleable names as Paulette Goddard, Burgess Meredith, James Stewart, Henry Fonda, Dorothy Lamour, Victor Moore, Harry James, Fred MacMurray, and others.

The story is held together by the adventures of Meredith, a timid want-ad clerk, who becomes emboldened by the proddings of his wife, Miss Goddard, to pose as an inquiring reporter. Armed with the question: "What great influence has a little child had on your life?" Meredith goes off to "interrogate the world." In the course of his exploits, all types of entertainment turn up, including slapstick, mock tragedy, satire, musical numbers, vocals, skits, tired gags and just about everything on the roster of entertainment. Structurally, the plot has a tendency to prolong many sequences, and thus much of the over-all effects are diluted.

One of the most memorable chapters results when Meredith pops his question to Stewart and Fonda, a pair of night-spot musicians. Out comes in retrospect their rocking tale of how a baby ("baby" Dorothy Ford) altered their lives. The sketch is a gem, with story material provided by John O'Hara.

With an incensed bookmaker barking at his heels, Meredith goes off to discover how a glamorous film star, Miss Lamour, was affected by a child. There emerges the yarn of how an aging actor of the silent days, Moore, became her manager. The sketch provides Miss Lamour an opportunity to do a sarong-girl burlesque.

Next comes the mournful tale of how MacMurray and William Demarest, as a couple of itinerant gamblers, became the victims of the superior mind of a 12-year-old "brat," David Whorf, who held them captive in his little cave.

Meredith also shared the production reins with Bogeaus, while the directorial chores were handled by King Vidor and Leslie Fenton. The screenplay of Laurence Stallings and Lou Breslow, from an Arch Obler original, ends with the big-fisted bookmaker catching up with Meredith. But what do a few scars matter, when he really lands the job as the roving reporter? And what is more, his wife informs him they are going to have a baby. A miracle does happen!

Running time, 107 minutes. General audience classification. Set for February release.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Oxford Gets Film Rights

Oxford Films has acquired American distribution rights to the new Swedish film "Blood and Fire," produced by Europa Film of Stockholm. The film has been cited with six awards by the Swedish Producers Association.

Prudential in Darien

Berk and Krumgold, theatre realty specialists of New York, have sold the Darien Theatre, Darien, Conn., to Prudential Playhouses Operating Co. The house was owned by a company headed by Senator Edward H. Delafield.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 23 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1948 TEN CENTS

D. of J. Would 'Wreck' Big 5, Briefs Charge

File Replies Assailing Stand on Divorcement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2. — The government's stand on divestiture was assailed as destructive and unjust to defendants and the public in answering briefs filed in the U. S. Supreme Court today by the "Big Five" in the industry anti-trust suit appeal.

Briefs were filed with the court by RKO, Paramount, 20th-Fox, Warner Brothers and M-G-M. The appeals are from the findings of the District Court. Arguments are scheduled to start on Feb. 9.

Paramount charged that the Government appeal brief as a whole "reflects a determination to wreck the defendants and the industry regardless of any other consequences," adding that "the brief subordinates everything else in favor of a fixation for stripping defendants of their theatre inter-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Loew's Plans No Expansion: Rubin

Loew's, Inc., does not plan to expand its theatre holdings in the event the U. S. Supreme Court refuses to order theatre divestiture, J. Robert Rubin, Loew's vice-president and general counsel, said here yesterday.

Rubin's statement was made as a denial and correction of a story pub-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Argentina Passes M-G-M, UA Films

Buenos Aires, Feb. 2.—Approval of two films, one from M-G-M, the other from United Artists, by the Argentine censorship has lent credence to reports that the government's action in halting censorship and thereby preventing exhibition of imported films is directed principally against Spain and Italy over a question of reciprocity for this country's films.

Civil Liberties Can File as Amicus Curiae

Washington, Feb. 2.—The Supreme Court today granted permission to the American Civil Liberties Union to file an *amicus curiae* brief in the Paramount anti-trust case. The ACLU centers its case on urging divestiture of theatres by the five circuit-owning distributors.

Capital Meeting on Exhibitor Problems

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 2.—Herman M. Levy, general counsel of the Theatre Owners of America, and attorneys for other exhibitor organizations will meet in Washington following the Supreme Court hearing on the industry anti-trust suit appeals on Feb. 9, to plan bringing local and national problems closer to their membership and to obtain the benefit of an exchange of ideas and approaches to industry problems, the Kentucky Association of Theatre Owners has been advised.

Johnston Rejects 'Curtain' Protest

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—A protest to Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America head, by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship against release of 20th Century-Fox's forthcoming "The Iron Curtain" has been rejected on the grounds that it would be an invasion of freedom of expression which, in turn, would "chip away at the foundations of our democracy."

Replying to the protest of Rev. William Howard Melish, chairman of the Council, Johnston said: "We all want American-Soviet friendship and peace. But friendship is not one-sided. It must be mutual. What is your organization doing in Russia to promote Soviet-American friendship?"

Availability Plan For U-I in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Feb. 2.—Following the 21-day availability policy for selected deluxe subsequent-run houses first introduced here by Andy W. Smith, Jr., 20th-Fox general sales manager, and now practiced locally by 20th-Fox and Warner, has been adopted by Universal-International. First U-I picture to be so released here is "The Senator Was Indiscreet."

FILM SUPPLY FOR MONTHS IN BRITAIN

Jackson Pk. Effects Studied by SIMPP

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—Robert J. Rubin, counsel for the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, entrained here at the weekend for Chicago, to study the effects of the Jackson Park Theatre court decision, and will continue to Washington for the Supreme Court hearings on the anti-trust case next week. Rubin, functioning under the direction of the executive committee, will administer SIMPP affairs pending the election of a successor to president Donald M.

(*Continued on page 4*)

TOA Legal Stand Vs. Ascap Hinted

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 2.—Unless the kind of compromise that will make it "unprofitable to pursue any other remedy'" can be reached with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, legal action against the Society may be undertaken by Theatre Owners of America, Herman Levy, TOA general counsel, intimated strongly in addressing the convention of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina here today.

Levy pointed out that the Federal consent decree under which Ascap operates permits it to increase its fees for performing rights "by reason of changing conditions affecting the market for or marketability of performing rights."

Declaring that it will be difficult for

(*Continued on page 4*)

Sears to Coast on Cagney Settlement

Gradwell L. Sears, United Artists president, left here yesterday for Chicago and will continue from there to the Coast after a few days to discuss a settlement of UA's contractual disagreement with William Cagney.

Basis for a settlement which would give UA "The Time of Your Life" and possibly other Cagney pictures, has been proposed and will be discussed further when Sears arrives on the Coast. Although completed, "Time of Your Life" was not delivered to UA when Cagney recently switched to Warners. A legal action started by UA in consequence, has been withdrawn preliminary to settlement talks.

68 Features, Westerns Still Unreleased; Also Reissues, British Films

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The "iron curtain" which for months has obscured a reliable appraisal of unreleased American pictures on hand here was parted sufficiently yesterday to reveal that there is left a minimum supply sufficient to last several months, perhaps into the early summer.

The situation is by no means uniform, Paramount, for example, having five unreleased features on hand and 20th Century-Fox none. Nor is the appraisal complete, due to the secrecy with which distributors, apparently at the direction of the U. S. Motion Picture Export Association, have steadfastly declined to divulge particulars of their product resources.

However, the over-all picture indicates that the eight major American companies have a total of more than 40 unreleased features on hand and not subject to the 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax, having been imported prior to the effective date of the tax.

Three American independent companies, Monogram, PRC (Eagle-Lion) and Republic, have, in the hands of their respective British distributors, a total of 18 unreleased features and 12 Westerns.

In addition, all American companies

(*Continued on page 2*)

Schwalberg Resigns As E-L Sales Head

A. W. Schwalberg yesterday resigned as vice-president and general sales manager of Eagle-Lion Films, effective Feb. 15, Arthur B. Krim, president, announced.

Schwalberg, who assumed his post with the formation of E-L about 18 months ago, said he will announce his new position early next week and would assume the new post the day after leaving E-L.

Krim said that Schwalberg's successor probably would be announced tomorrow. It has been reported in the trade that E-L has conferred with William Heineman, presently in charge of sales for Prestige Pictures, the Universal-International unit which handles American distribution of selected British pictures from J. Arthur

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

TED GAMBLE, president of Theatre Owners of America, will be in Dallas today and tomorrow for Texas Theatre Owners convention.

•

E. L. McEVOY, Universal-International short subjects sales manager, left here yesterday for visits to Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Albany, N. Y.

•

MITCHELL RAWSON of M-G-M's publicity department and WILLIAM SCHNEIDER of Donahue and Coe left New York last night by plane for the Coast.

•

BEN HABER, assistant art director of RKO Radio here, has resigned to become co-owner of Modern Art Guild, advertising art service.

•

PAUL MACNAMARA, Selznick Releasing Organization national advertising-publicity director, is in New York from the Coast.

•

RICHARD F. WALSH, president of IATSE, who returned to New York yesterday from Hollywood, will leave here today by plane for Miami.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, M-G-M short subjects sales head, left here yesterday for Buffalo, N. Y., and Cleveland.

•

PAT PATTERSON, Astor franchiseholder, left here over the weekend for San Francisco.

•

GEORGE WELTNER, Paramount International president, is due back in New York today from Hollywood.

•

W. STEWART MCDONALD, Warner theatre executive, will return here tomorrow from Pittsburgh.

•

ALAN CUMMINGS, M-G-M branch operations head, returned here yesterday from a Western exchange tour.

Smith Is Transferred To Hollywood Post

Harold L. Smith, Motion Picture Export Association representative in the American Zone in Berlin, and liaison with the Information Control Division of the U. S. Military Government there, is understood to be en route to New York on a transfer to the International Information Center in Hollywood. Previously Smith represented the MPAA in Paris, from 1928 to World War II, and then again in 1945-46.

Mrs. Lena Broidy, 63

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—Mrs. Lena Broidy, 63, mother of Allied Artists-Monogram president Steve Broidy, died in Cedars of Lebanon hospital this morning following a brief illness. In addition to her husband, Julius, she leaves another son, William F., and two daughters. Funeral services will be held tomorrow morning.

Film Supply

(*Continued from page* 1)

have an appreciable store of films suitable for reissue, and at least eight unreleased British pictures are held by five major American distributors.

Numerically, therefore, American companies have on hand approximately 68 features, 12 Westerns and scores of pictures suitable for reissue.

However, over the last several years, American companies released an average minimum of 300 features annually here, or 25 per month.

Moreover, more than half of the unreleased product on the shelves of the American companies here is not of top grade, nor suitable for first-run bookings. Thus, although there will be some new first-run American product for at least another four months, the first-run houses will feel the pinch sooner than others.

The situation, at least, is far from that pictured recently by W. R. Fuller, secretary of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association here, who warned that a film-famine, running-down process would affect first-runs by the end of January. That, obviously, was not a true forecast.

On the British distribution side, J. Arthur Rank's General Film Distributors, which also has perhaps a half-dozen Universal pictures still unreleased, has already prepared a release schedule of double-feature offerings, including reissues, which extends into next autumn. In all, there are about 50 British first features, some 40 "others" and reissues on hand.

Empty studios here testify to the drying -up process, however. M-G-M is prepared to make its seven-stage Elstree plant available to any reputable British producer, but there are no takers. The British financial tap has gone dry, at least temporarily. Meanwhile, members of Parliament are arguing that the government should forthwith requisition all empty studio space.

Collapse of the film industry here is a thing which the government badly does not want to happen. Significantly, it is now learned that the Treasury contemplates putting down a British film quota of 35 per cent for 1949, despite the oft-expressed official hopes that the tax deadlock may speedily be ended.

Meanwhile, it is reliably estimated that American film remittances are still running around an annual average of $44,000,000.

Following is a company-by-company tabulation of product on hand, exclusive of available reissues:

PARAMOUNT: "Saigon," release date, Feb. 9; "Road to Rio," March 29; "The Big Clock," April 19; "Unconquered" and "Emperor Waltz," release dates not set. Paramount also has the British films, "Daughter of Darkness" and "So Evil My Love," for which release dates are not set.

UNITED ARTISTS: "Monsieur Verdoux," release date, Feb. 2; "Personal Column" ("Lured"), Feb. 9; "Heaven Only Knows," March 8; "Just William's Luck" (British), March 22; "The Brass Monkey," release not set.

COLUMBIA: "The Swordsman," March 8; "The Assassin," June 21, and the following for which no release dates have been set: "Last of the Redskins," "Lady from Shanghai," "Relentless," "I Love Trouble," "To the Ends of the Earth," "The Man from Colorado," "It Had to Be You," "The Prince of Thieves," and the British picture, "First Gentleman."

RKO RADIO: "Fun and Fancy Free," release date, Feb. 16; "Indian Summer," March 22, and the following without release dates: "Isle of the Dead," "Born to Kill, "Woman on the Beach," "The Fugitive."

WARNERS: "Cry Wolf," March 15; "The Unfaithful," May 17, and the following without release dates: "Escape Me Never," "The Hidden Hand," "Cheyenne," "The Mysterious Doctor," "Beast with Five Fingers," "Night Unto Night," "Deep Valley," "The Woman in White," "Dark Passage," and the British picture, "Idol of Paris," release date March 15.

M-G-M: "Merton of the Movies," release not set. M-G-M also has the following reissue schedule already set: February: "Rio Rita" and "The Big Store"; March: "Northwest Passage" and "Mrs. Miniver"; April: "Billy the Kid" and "Broadway Melody"; May: "Sweethearts" and "Murder in Thornton Square."

20TH-FOX: No unreleased American product ascertainable. Has the unreleased British films "This Was a Woman" and "Escape," with release dates not set; also has reissues.

UNIVERSAL: Believed to have about six unreleased features with its British distributor, Rank's G. F. D.

MONOGRAM (distributed by Pathe): "The Ape Man," "The Corpse Vanishes," "The Voodoo Man," "Violence," "Fall Guy," "Sarge Goes to College," "Kilroy Was Here," "News Hounds." No release dates set.

PRC (Eagle-Lion), (distributed by Pathe): "The Brute Man," "Down Missouri Way," "Untamed Fury," "The Big Fix," "Philo Vance's Gamble," "Philo Vance Returns," "Killer at Large," "Too Many Winners"; release dates not set.

REPUBLIC (distributed by British Lion): "Wyoming," "Blackmail." Release not set.

Skouras Press Report Scheduled for Today

Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, who returned to New York by plane from London over the weekend, could not be reached here yesterday for comment on reports preceding his arrival that he brought with him a new proposal from the British industry regarding settlement of the British *ad valorem* tax.

However, a spokesman for 20th-Fox said yesterday that Skouras expects to hold a press interview today.

Brandt Answers Today

Answers of Harry Brandt, Bernard B. Brandt, Louis Brandt, William Brandt and 162 other defendants in the Brandt Circuit percentage suits brought by Paramount, which were scheduled to be filed on or before yesterday in New York Supreme Court are scheduled to be filed today instead. Plaintiff seeks recovery of $563,265.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK - Ann TODD - Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN - Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

HUMPHREY BOGART in "TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE"
WALTER HUSTON Produced by HENRY BLANKE
IN PERSON LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
Plus BIG REVUE
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9 AM LATE FILM AT MIDNIGHT
LATE STAGE SHOW 10:30 PM B'WAY AT 47th

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DANA ANDREWS · MERLE OBERON · ETHEL BARRYMORE
in A JOHN CROMWELL PRODUCTION
'NIGHT SONG'
with HOAGY CARMICHAEL
RKO RADIO PICTURES

WALT DISNEY'S Bambi
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
Re-Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
NOW! BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'WAY 51st St.

BURT LANCASTER
LIZABETH SCOTT
in HAL WALLIS' production
"I WALK ALONE"
A Paramount Picture
in Person ANDY RUSSELL HELEN FORREST DICK WESSON MACK & DESMOND and the Extra Added Attraction JERRY WALD AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR
B'way at 45th St.

CAPTAIN from CASTILE
TECHNICOLOR
TYRONE POWER
20th CENTURY-FOX
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.
RIVOLI
B'way at 49th St.

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Deadly encounter...
savage pursuit...
defiant love...from the
high Sierras to the
murderous desert...



COLUMBIA PICTURES presents

ROBERT YOUNG ★ MARGUERITE CHAPMAN

RELENTLESS

with

WILLARD PARKER · AKIM TAMIROFF

Barton MacLANE · Mike MAZURKI · Robert BARRAT · Clem BEVANS

Screenplay by Winston Miller

Directed by GEORGE SHERMAN · Produced by EUGENE B. RODNEY

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

COLUMBIA PICTURES

TOA vs. Ascap

(*Continued from page* 1)

Ascap to prove that either condition obtains, Levy said: "We may have to put Ascap to the test."

"Compromise appears to be the most realistic and practical approach. But it will have to be a fair and reasonable compromise or we shall fight Ascap on all fronts with all weapons at our command."

Levy warned exhibitors against regarding the recent Chicago Federal Court decree in the Jackson Park Theatre case as an exhibitor victory. "That decree," he said, "has opened the door to court and legislative strictures on your business in the fields of clearance, prices to be paid for film, length of run, etc., all matters hitherto open for negotiation.

Restrictions Hit 'Rights'

"Each decision restricting the customary methods of doing business adds to the difficulty of your running your theatre, and step by step, takes from you what were hitherto considered inalienable, autonomous rights."

Levy contended that the imposition of competitive bidding by the New York Federal Court in the industry anti-trust suit "took from exhibitors all the legitimate avenues of competition that were open to you and to every other American business man in every other industry." He predicted that the Supreme Court decision in the same case, whatever it may be, "will make it more difficult for you to run your business than it is right now."

Theatre owners are bearing an unjust burden in taxation and unless given relief many of them will go into "the red" this year, Ted R. Gamble, TOA president, told the convention.

Scores Tax Burden

Every theatre admission is taxed 20 per cent, said Gamble, and many states and municipalities have or are considering additional taxes of as much as 10 per cent of the admission price. We cannot continue under this tax burden, he declared.

Asserting that efforts are being made to have Congress reduce the Federal tax, Gamble said: "We do not ask that the levy be repealed entirely. Some sort of tax is necessary to guard against inflation, but we want it lightened, as most theatres in the nation are small houses of 500 or less seats, and their owners must be protected against business slumps."

Theatre receipts are about eight per cent off, said Gamble, but is generally on the upgrade and will be stabilized.

Gamble left Charlotte this evening for Dallas, where he will address the Texas Theatre Owners' convention.

News Briefs

Ascap Monopoly Trial Here Confronted with More Delay

A judge of the U. S. District Court here was not available yesterday and may not be available today to hear the breach-of-contract suit involving actor James Mason and producer David Rose, thus causing further delay of the hearing of the monopoly action brought here by 165 New York exhibitors against Ascap. The latter case, although scheduled earlier for trial yesterday, follows the Mason-Rose suit on the court's hearing calendar.

Morris Documents Evidence; Case Against WB Continues

Former Warner executive Sam E. Morris' $250,000 suit against the company charging breach of employment contract will continue in U. S. District Court here, plaintiff's attorneys having filed with Warner counsel at the weekend a statement of particulars in connection with the allegation, as stipulated by Federal Judge John Bright last Thursday. Bright had said he would dismiss the case if the documented particulars were not in the hands of Warner's counsel by Saturday. Next move in the case is the company's, with answers to charges expected to be forthcoming in the next week or so.

6-City Previews Set Up Warner's "Turtle" in 129 Situations

Warner Brothers has given its soon-to-be-released "The Voice of the Turtle" one night preview showings in six exchange centers, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Washington. Each was preceded by a specialized territorial campaign which set up forthcoming engagements in 129 playdates in surrounding cities.

Industry to Aid Understanding Of "The American Way": Harmon

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2.—The film industry, through the Motion Picture Export Association, will "do its utmost through selectivity of films in exports, to promote universal understanding of the American Way of Life," Francis Harmon, MPEA vice-president, told the Hollywood Advertising Club at a luncheon here.

Odeon Dividend

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Odeon Theatres has declared a seven-and-a-half per cent tax-free interim dividend on ordinary stock for the year ending June 26, 1948. The dividend is the same as that declared last year.

Briefs Charge

(*Continued from page* 1)

ests and destroying their value in the course of that major surgical operation."

The Paramount brief stressed that the statutory court's decision had pointed out clearly that divestiture would not remedy or alleviate the situation resulting from certain distribution practices objected to but "would leave the public as well as the defendants, at the mercy of powerful independent circuits or of distributors controlling most of the best pictures and not competing in distribution."

RKO Stresses 'Separateness'

Highlight of RKO's answer to the Government's appeal brief was the contention that the statutory court was right in holding the company not guilty of engaging in a nationwide conspiracy with the other theatre operating defendants to monopolize the distribution or exhibition of pictures. The statutory court was also upheld for refusing to find that RKO's theatre operations "may be aggregated with those of the other defendants for the purpose of establishing general claims of monopoly in exhibition."

"The plaintiff's brief," the company asserted, "nowhere undertakes to set forth any factual or legal justification for thus lumping together RKO and the other companies and ignoring their numerous differences in origin, development, size and operating policy."

The briefs denied the existence of any exclusionary conspiracy to prevent independent theatres from obtaining product distributed by the defendants and to exclude independent producers from having access to affiliated theatres.

Holds Injunctions 'Adequate'

The 20th-Fox answer contended that "the injunctions contained in the decree, together with the affirmative relief granted by the court, are adequate to bring the conduct of the defendants into harmony with the anti-trust laws."

Corporate relationship of 20th-Fox and National Theatres was regarded by the defendant company as furnishing no basis for divestiture.

The Warner brief saw no basis for the claim that "extensive experience" showed the decree to be inadequate to eliminate the trade practices found illegal. The company contended the proscribed trade practices "are wholly unrelated to integration (pools and joint ownership of houses)." This made divorcement unnecessary, it was argued.

Schwalberg Resigns

(*Continued from page* 1)

Rank's producers. E-L also distributes some of Rank's pictures here. It is believed, however, that if a deal were made with Heineman he would head E-L distribution and a new sales manager would be named, in addition.

Krim said that Schwalberg's resignation was accepted with regret and paid tribute to his contributions to the "creation and development of E-L."

Loew's Plans

(*Continued from page* 1)

lished by MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday that Loew's had earmarked a $10,000,000 surplus fund for theatre expansion. The story resulted from an erroneous interpretation of answers to questions which were put by Loew's stockholders at the annual meeting here last Friday.

Rubin pointed out that the New York decree prohibits defendants from acquiring new theatre interests, although, therefore, if the decree is affirmed by the Supreme Court, theatre expansion would be illegal.

"Expansion has had no part in our theatre policy for many years," Rubin said. "We have acquired interests in only nine additional theatres in the past 13 years. The New York Federal Court has commented favorably on that record. If the New York decree is affirmed, it is quite possible that we may have to buy out some partners where our present theatre interests are more than 5 per cent and less than 95 per cent. That is all that is contemplated," Rubin said.

He also corrected a statement attributed to him to the effect that Loew's can operate profitably if the British market is not restored.

"I told the stockholders we will have to operate profitably," Rubin said. "We will have to cut costs to accomplish that, if the British situation remains unchanged."

MOTION PICTURE DAILY regrets the errors made in reporting the Loew's stockholders' meeting and is happy to make these corrections.

Study Jackson Pk.

(*Continued from page* 1)

Nelson, whose resignation became effective Saturday.

The SIMPP membership is undecided whether to go outside the industry for a president, as in the case of Nelson, or to elect one of its own members to the post. Several candidates for the position have been given consideration, but the likelihood is that no final choice will be made until the Supreme Court decision on the anti-trust case is handed down. If divorcement eventuates, it is reasoned, one type of president will be preferable.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 24 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1948 TEN CENTS

Licensing Ban Would Darken Houses: Loew's

Brief Charges D. of J. Plan Is an 'Afterthought'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. — Loew's would be faced with the prospect of closing many of its theatres for long periods or getting rid of them to avoid bankruptcy if the Government succeeds in its efforts to prevent the "Big Five" from "cross-licensing" one another's houses. This contention was made in an answering brief filed by Loew's with the U. S. Supreme Court today in the industry anti-trust suit appeals.

Loew's counsel asserted that the Government's proposal, which was assailed as "divorcement by indirection," had come as a "complete afterthought in the case at bar."

"It was not mentioned in the

(*Continued on page 7*)

N. Y. First-Run Receipts Are Spotty

Although New York's spell of cold weather had a restraining effect generally on grosses at downtown first-run theatres, the Strand is booming with "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" and Lionel Hampton's band on stage. Notwithstanding the very low temperatures which on Friday and

(*Continued on page 6*)

Calls for More Rigid Censorship in Canada

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—A demand has been made in the Canadian Parliament for "a more rigid and more efficient censorship" of films in Canada.

"Pornographic literature and movies fill our young people with a searing poison," said Eugene Marquis, MP for Kamouraska, Que. "Is it any wonder that juvenile delinquency is increasing and that the evils of divorce are spreading when magazines and films set up free love as the best way of life as an attribute of freedom?" he added.

Brandt Asks Court To Amputate Para. Fraud Bill Content

Harry Brandt filed in New York Supreme Court here yesterday an affidavit asking the elimination of "evidentiary matter" from Paramount's $563,265 fraud action complaint, instituted on Jan. 12.

Milton C. Weisman, attorney for Brandt and for most of the other 160-odd defendants, said at a press interview in his office here yesterday that the motion and affidavit had been served on Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim, attorneys for Paramount, on Monday, the day on which Weisman was to have filed answers in court to Paramount's charges. The document filed yesterday was not an answer to Paramount's allegations, he pointed out, explaining that after the court rules on Brandt's motion to strike, answers will be filed. The court is expected to rule on the motion Monday.

"Evidentiary matter" refers to "evi-

(*Continued on page 7*)

More Gas-Heated Theatres Are Closed

Additional theatres have been closed by authorities seeking to widen the supply of fuel to heat homes, hospitals, food plants and other top-priority users, in the fuel shortage resulting from the bitter cold weather which gripped most of this country and Canada.

Gas-heated theatres in sections of southwestern Ontario affected by a serious shortage of natural gas have been ordered closed "until the present crisis is over." The Dominion Natural Gas Co. and Union Gas have been forced to cut off supplies to users in

(*Continued on page 6*)

Heineman to Eagle-Lion

William J. Heineman has been appointed vice-president in charge of Eagle-Lion distribution, Arthur B. Krim, E-L president, announced here yesterday.

With Heineman in the top distribution post, it is expected that a general sales manager will be appointed to work under Heineman, succeeding A. W. Schwalberg who resigned yesterday as sales head, effective Feb. 15.



W. J. Heineman

Heineman has resigned as general sales manager of the J. Arthur Rank division of Universal Pictures, but

(*Continued on page 7*)

U.K. Circuits Book Reissue Dual Bills

LONDON, Feb. 3.—The Gaumont-British and Odeon circuits have set the following double feature reissue bookings, extending through the summer:

G-B: "Pygmalion," "Captive Heart," April 5; "The Seventh Veil," "Life and Death of Colonel Blimp," May 24; "Bedelia," "Odd Man Out," June 14; "London Town," "I See a Dark Stranger," Aug. 16; "Jassy," "Edge of the World," Sept. 13.

Odeon: "Green for Danger," "Red Stallion," March 15; "Men of Two Worlds," "Man Within," June 7; "Wicked Lady," "Caravan," Sept. 6.

British Quota Adjustments To Be Upward

Withdraw 35% Amendment on That Contingency

LONDON, Feb. 2. — Parliament Member Oliver Lyttleton today withdrew his film quota bill amendment calling for an exhibitor's British picture quota of 35 per cent on an understanding from the British Board of Trade that because the majority of British producers and many members of the House of Commons are in favor of that percentage the government would reconsider its own provision.

Having fixed a minimum quota, BOT Parliamentary secretary Belcher explained that future adjustments would be in an upward direction since "British films have gained popularity because of their quality rather than because of government legislation."

BOT president Harold Wilson has

(*Continued on page 7*)

Texas Theatremen Vote to Join TOA

DALLAS, Feb. 3.—Texas Theatre Owners, at its opening session here today, voted to affiliate with Theatre Owners of America. Ted Gamble, president; Robert Coyne, executive director, and Morris Loewenstein, secretary of TOA, were among the some 80 theatremen who attended today's session.

R. J. O'Donnell, vice-president and general manager of Interstate Circuit, also spoke on participation of the Texas organization in establishing a memorial for the battleship *Texas*.

Carpenter Heads Carolinas T. O.

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 3.—George D. Carpenter of Valdese, N. C., was elected president of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina to succeed Ben L. Strozier, of Rock Hill, S. C., who was elected a vice-president.

Named to the directorate of Theatre Owners of America were Strozier as regional vice-president; H. F. Kincey, TOA director for North Caro-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Asks Building Ban Be Retained, and Enforced

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Housing Expediter Tighe Woods today asked the House Banking and Currency Committee to continue the Government's power to curb theatre construction, and provide an adequate enforcement staff to make the restrictions effective.

In testifying before a Senate Committee last week, Woods emphasized that this was his "official position," but that "personally" he felt the total involved was "insignificant." House members did not press Woods on this point today. He is scheduled to return for additional questioning tomorrow.

Woods estimated today that theatre and other amusement construction represented six per cent of all construction in the country, but added that he had no assurance that material conserved by Government curbs actually went into housing.

Asking authority also to channel materials into housing, the expediter declared that such power would insure the effectiveness of the amusement construction ban. Woods said the agency's compliance staff was "undermanned."

Personal Mention

J. J. UNGER, United Artists general sales manager, and EDWARD M. SCHNITZER, Eastern and Canadian sales manager, left here yesterday for Boston and New Haven.

•

STANTON GRIFFIS, U. S. Ambassador to Poland and chairman of the Paramount executive committee; LUCIEN BALLARD and MERLE OBERON are among passengers who will sail from New York today for Europe on the *SS Queen Mary*.

•

ARCHER WINSTEN, New York *Post* film reviewer, is en route to Venezuela from New York to gather material for several documentaries for the Princeton Film Center.

•

THOMAS JEAN HARGRAVE, president of Eastman Kodak, was presented with the Certificate of Merit in Washington yesterday by Secretary of the Army Royall, for war services.

•

J. M. SEIDER, of Associated Prudential Theatres, and MRS. SEIDER will sail for South America from New York on the *SS Uruguay* next Thursday.

•

WALTER F. BRANSON, co-captain of the current RKO Radio sales drive, and SID KRAMER, are due back here Monday from a tour of exchanges.

•

HAL E. CHESTER, Allied Artists-Monogram producer, and VIRGINIA ELLEN WEATHERLY will be married in Enid, Okla., on Feb. 14.

•

DAVID COPLAN, United Artists managing director in London, has left England on the *SS Queen Elizabeth* for a visit here.

•

GRADWELL L. SEARS, United Artists president, is in Chicago for several days of sales conferences, en route to Hollywood.

•

AL SUCHMAN, Eagle-Lion Eastern sales manager, has left New York on a tour of exchanges.

•

S. H. FABIAN, head of Fabian Theatres, is vacationing in Florida from New York for a month.

•

JACK ELLIS, United Artists district manager in New York, will leave here tomorrow for Albany, N. Y.

•

E. L. ALPERSON of Anson Prod., is here from Hollywood.

Nasser Forms New Producing Company

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 3.—James Nasser, owner of General Service Studio, has formed James Nasser Productions, Inc. Fred MacMurray will star in, and Lloyd Bacon will direct "Innocent Affair," by Lou Breslow and Joe Hoffman, as the first.

News Briefs . . .

Campaign to Replace Canadian War Tax with Provincial Levy

TORONTO, Feb. 3.—Executives of the Ontario Association of Mayors and Municipalities is scheduled to see the cabinet of the Provincial Government on Friday to seek legislation to provide for a provincial amusement tax in which cities and towns will share when the Dominion Government vacates the theatre tax field. The Federal impost is a 20 per cent war tax on grosses and the promise has been made that this levy will be removed.

To date, 384 theatres in Ontario have pledged to reduce admission prices to the extent of the Federal tax when the latter is abolished, unless it is replaced by a provincial assessment. Members of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario have been invited to organize against the revival of the Ontario amusement tax which was dropped 10 years ago.

Dezel Gets 37 Westerns; Open St. Louis Branch

DETROIT, Feb. 3.—Albert Dezel Productions has acquired 37 Westerns from United Screen Attractions for the entire United States; the group includes 10 Ken Maynard Westerns; eight Bob Steele, eight Bill Cody's and 11 Fred Scotts.

Also announced today by Dezel was the opening of a St. Louis office, and the appointment of John Walsh, former manager of Screen Guild Productions in St. Louis, as manager of the branch. This addition brings the total of Dezel offices to six. Others are in Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Indianapolis.

Shea Meeting, Banquet Held in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Feb. 3.—Some 90 film representatives were guests of the Shea Enterprises at a banquet at the Carter Hotel here today following the annual Shea managers' meeting. Bert Sanford was master of ceremonies, and speakers included George Goett of New York, who was introduced as the oldest member of the Shea organization; Eddie Aaron and J. J. Maloney both of M-G-M; Howard Minsky, 20th Century-Fox; B. G. Kranze, Film Classics; James O'Gara, Republic; Nat Wolf and E. C. Grainger, president of Shea.

Bill Would Raise Copyright Fee

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The House Judiciary Committee reported out today a bill which would raise copyright fees from two to three dollars. The Motion Picture Association supports the bill on the grounds that it would increase the efficiency of the U. S. Patent Office.

Mason-Rose Suit Wednesday

The breach-of-contract suit instituted by producer David Rose against James Mason will be heard by Federal Judge Knox in District Court here next Wednesday, it was learned yesterday.

MPAA's European Representatives Here from Washington Talks

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Fayette W. Allport, Motion Picture Association of America European manager, and Frank McCarthy, MPAA representative in France, left Washington for New York tonight. McCarthy made "routine calls" at the State Department, while Allport conferred with Eric Johnston, MPAA president, and other officials.

Allport and McCarthy are expected here again this weekend for possibly their final conference with Johnston before returning to Europe.

Building Code Changes Being Considered for Atlanta Houses

ATLANTA, Feb. 3. — A panel of the city building code advisory board is studying changes in provisions affecting theatres.

The code now requires that the auditorium must be separated from all passages and corridors by a fire partition and that only exit doors open into the auditorium. Most theatres have a standee rail at the rear of the auditorium and building inspector O. Marvin Harper has been ordering owners to replace the rail with a fire partition. Protests have been so loud and so many that Harper passed the question along to a panel of the board.

Ferguson To Preside at Eastern Field Staff Meeting Today

William R. Ferguson, M-G-M exploitation head, today will hold the third in a series of meetings with his field staff and sales executives covering the Eastern territory, supervised by John P. Byrne, sales manager. The session will be held at the Astor Hotel here.

Also attending will be Floyd Fitzsimmons, Albany-Buffalo exploiteer; Ken Prickett, Boston-New Haven; James Ashcraft and Ed Gallner, Philadelphia, and Herman Ripps, field assistant to Byrne, with headquarters at Albany.

Tennessee Supreme Court Upholds Knoxville Tax on Theatre Seats

NASHVILLE, Feb. 3.—State Supreme Court has upheld the 1947 legislature amusement tax for Knoxville and Knox County.

Knoxville theatres challenged the constitutionality of the tax of one cent on each 20 cents of admission soon after it went into effect last April. It has been estimated the tax would provide approximately $150,000 annually, $120,000 from Knoxville and $30,000 from Knox County.

Coast Group Removed From Tax-Exempt List

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Contributions to the Hollywood Writers' Mobilization and seven other groups have been removed from the "tax-exempt" list by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The Mobilization was included among organizations listed as "subversive" by the Attorney General recently.

Newsreel Parade

THE death of Gandhi highlights all current newsreels. Other items include the winter olympics, displaced persons reaching Canada, and a variety of sports and human interest subjects. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 10—Gandhi mourned. Pope thanks U. S. Friendship Food burned in warehouse fire in France. Marines sail for Mediterranean. Capital airport clears snow. Olympics. Milrose games. Horse racing.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 244—World mourns Gandhi. More Marines embark. Fur fashions. Milrose Games. Winter Olympics.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 47—Winter Olympics. Canada welcomes displaced persons. India without Gandhi. Record in indoor mile.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 114—Cold-wave grips East. Gandhi assassinated. Canada welcomes displaced Europeans. Gil Dodd breaks mile record. Santa Anita racing. Winter Olympics.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 49—World mourns Gandhi. France devalues the franc. Latest Florida fashions. Canada welcomes displaced persons from Europe. Fire destroys Friendship Food. Gil Dodd shatters world mile record.

10 More Exhibitors To Aid 'Brotherhood'

Ten more exhibitors have been named territorial chairmen for "American Brotherhood Week," sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the latest acceptances bringing the total to 42 to co-ordinate the activities of theatre owners in behalf of the drive.

The new list and the territories they will cover are: Harry Lamont, Albany; Robert T. Murphy, Buffalo; John Balaban and Jack Kirsch, Illinois; Woodrow Praught, North Dakota; Gus Metzger, Southern California; Harry L. Nace, Arizona; Abe Solomon, Tennessee; Les Newkirk, Wyoming; John Nolan, Eastern Pennsylvania.

Los Angeles 'Brotherhood Week' Headed by Metzger and Bowser

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 3. — National Conference of Christians and Jews announces the appointment of a Los Angeles theatre committee for the American Brotherhood campaign. Gus Metzger and George Bowser are co-chairmen. Members are Marco Wolff, Ben Wallerstein, Sherrill Corwin, Rodney Pantages, Cliff Geissman, Paul Williams, Robert Poole, Harry Vinnicof, Al Galston, Dave Bershon and Seymour Peiser.

Faris To Represent SIMPP in Interim

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 3.—Marvin Faris, executive secretary of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, will represent the organization in external matters pending selection of a new president to succeed Donald M. Nelson, it was indicated here. Faris, who was brought into the organization by Nelson following the death of John C. Flinn, will function in a capacity similar to that held by Flinn.

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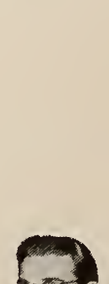


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Gentleman's Agreement

"THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PICTURE TO EMERGE FROM HOLLYWOOD IN 1947"

GIVE GENEROUSLY FOR
AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD WEEK

Miracle on 34th Street" and Special Award to  EDMUND GWENN for his performance in the picture.

666 Theatres in Kansas City Area

There are 666 theatres with a capacity of 347,084 in operation in the Kansas City territory, according to the Kansas City theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of America is releasing today.

The 24th in a series of 31 directories, the new one reveals that the area's three largest cities, Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City, Kan., and Wichita, account for 87 theatres, with a total capacity of 81,195.

Almost half (329) of the area's theatres are in 322 towns with a population of 2,500 and under. These account for a total capacity of 102,539, an average of 312 seats per theatre.

Percentage Suits on Coast Off to March 1

Los Angeles, Feb. 3.—Percentage suits brought by major distributing companies against exhibitors William E. Cox, Barstow, and Grover L. Smith, Glendale and Hamilton Park, were put over to March 1 by Federal Judge Pierson Hall when counsel for both sides today indicated that an amicable settlement is being negotiated. Both actions were for audit and reimbursement, with the court being asked to determine damages.

Arnold and Porter To Represent SWG

Hollywood, Feb. 3.—Thurman Arnold and Paul Porter have been engaged to represent the Screen Writers Guild in all matters pertaining to the industry's policy of not hiring subversives, SWG president Sheridan Gibney announced today.

Local No. 163 Reelects

Louisville, Feb. 3.—At the recent election of officers of Local No. 163 IATSE, Chester Demaree of Loew's was re-elected president. Also re-elected were financial secretary Edward Williams of the Brown, and business manager John Flaherty of the Strand. Clarence Young of Loew's was replaced as vice-president by A. A. Ansbach, Sr., of the Mary Anderson; R. L. Hulett of the Strand was replaced by W. H. Fane, Jr., of the National as recording secretary.

Theatres Closed

(*Continued from page* 1)

industrial establishments in order to preserve service to domestic customers.

Because of a critical shortage of natural gas, a main source of heating in Western Ontario theatres and schools which have gas furnaces were also ordered closed by L. M. Frost, Minister of Mines, Toronto.

A ban on the operation of gas-heated theatres from Niagara to Windsor, Ont., will be enforced until the crisis ends.

In Columbus, O., gas-heated theatres in the area served by the Ohio Fuel Gas Co. were included in the list of "non-essential" places which may be requested to close for duration of the gas emergency. The utility was authorized by the State Utilities Commission to curtail use of gas to such non-essential users during the emergency resulting from the extended series of cold waves.

Reviews

"Saigon"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, Feb. 3

IN view of the practically pyrotechnical popularity of Alan Ladd, who in 1947 was voted placement among the "Top Ten" in the *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* poll of exhibitors, the statement of consequence to be made in connection with this melodrama is that it stars Ladd and he is present in just about every one of the scenes. Like "Calcutta," which it compares with more directly than with any of his previous vehicles, it is a tale of adventure in a far place, and what happens in it are events contrived to present the star the way his fans want him presented. The exploitation procedure likely to pay off biggest in dollars and customer contentment consists of 24-sheeting the name of the star, plus the title, and allowing nature to take its course.

Ladd's associates in the cast are Veronica Lake, as a somewhat mysterious lady with a heart of unsuspected gold; Morris Carnovsky, as a polished profiteer on the lam; Douglas Dick, Mikhail Rasumny, Luis Van Rooten, and Wally Cassell, the latter shouldering the burden of comedy relief and doing the best job in the picture.

Ladd, Dick and Cassell portray U. S. fliers who take on, when discharged, an assignment to fly Carnovsky into Saigon for obscure reasons but a high fee. Miss Lake shows up at the takeoff instead of Carnovsky, lugging a portfolio which turns out, considerably later, to contain $500,000 in greenbacks. Complicated proceedings thereafter involve a sleek detective, some sentimental arrangements in behalf of Dick, who is about to die of a war injury, but does not know it, and finally a fight in which all the troublesome members of the cast are killed off to make it convenient for Ladd and Miss Lake to walk away together into the future. P. J. Wolfson produced the picture, and Leslie Fenton directed, from a script by Wolfson and Arthur Sheekman, based on a story by Julian Zimet.

Running time, 85 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Man of Evil"

(*Rank-United Artists*)

A PLOT that long has served the drama valiantly—that of a girl whose illegitimacy is used as an instrument to injure the people who are dear to her—is revived to fine advantage in a J. Arthur Rank production in which women will glory. The footage is made up of situation after situation that has rarely failed to agitate the emotions of the tender-hearted. While much of the drama might be called old-fashioned by present standards, there is no denying that it succeeds in its purpose. Women are certain to spread word around that here is another dramatic piece meriting their sighs—and the box-office will be healthier for it. However, the picture short-changes the James Mason admirers. It seems unwarranted to list the actor as the star of the show when he essays what is hardly more than a bit role. And what little Mason does in another stab at caddishness fails to leave an impression.

The stars of the British film actually are Phyllis Calvert and Stewart Granger, who make a romantic team that will capture the heart of every woman who sees the screen version of the Michael Sadleir novel, "Fanny by Gaslight." It is set in the Victorian period, with Miss Calvert a figure of charm and loveliness as the girl whose clouded birth stands in the way of her happiness. Her problem is made more burdensome by the fact that her father is high in British politics, and she is in love with a man with a brilliant political career ahead of him. Fear of a scandal drives her father to suicide. The lovers escape a scandal when Mason, who suspects the truth about the girl, is killed by Granger in a duel. This moving and absorbing film has been excellently produced by Edward Black and directed with feeling and understanding by Anthony Asquith. Maurice Ostrer had charge of production.

Running time, 90 minutes. Adult classification. Set for February release.

P. E. L.

"Alias a Gentleman"

(*Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer*)

Hollywood, Feb. 3

THE Wallace Beery following is in for quite a change of diet this time, for their favorite delineator of the uncouth and droll wears soup and fish, when he is not wearing tailored Park Avenue daytime garb, throughout all but the beginnings of this undertaking. In those early sequences, which are short, he is seen as head trusty on a penal farm, enforcing discipline with his fists, and is the Beery of old. The switch to swank may turn out to be all for the best, but it sure crosses up expectations. Tom Drake, Dorothy Patrick, Gladys George, Leon Ames, Warner Anderson and John Qualen head the supporting cast in a screenplay by William R. Lipman, based on a story by Peter Ruric. Direction is by Harry Beaumont for producer Nat Perrin.

Beery plays a former crook who receives $250,000 in cash for some oil land just as he is winding up a 15-year stretch of penal servitude, and determines to lead an honest life henceforth. He rents a penthouse, engages ceremonious servants, attires himself in a manner to which he has always aspired, and rebuffs former criminal associates (chiefly Ames), who wish him to continue in the ways of outlawry. Ames employs an actress to pose as Beery's long lost daughter, who is dead, by way of getting at the Beery money, and Drake, a young racketeer whom Beery has disciplined previously, shows up to fall in love with the girl. But Beery's kindness to her influences her to tell him the truth about herself, whereupon he and the police apprehend Ames and his evil affiliates in a rousing finish.

Running time, 76 minutes. General audience classification. Release date,

W. R. W.

15 Additional Films Rated by the Legion

Eleven of 15 pictures reviewed by the National Legion of Decency have been classified A-I; they are: "Albuquerque," "Paramount; "The Boy Who Stopped Niagara," J. Arthur Rank; "Ein Ganzer Kerl" and "Leben von Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart" (German), both Casino Films; "Gun Talk" and "Smart Politics," both Monogram; "The Hawk of Powder River" and "Westward Trail," both Eagle-Lion; "My Girl Tisa," Warners; "Relentless," Columbia; "You Were Meant for Me," 20th Century-Fox.

Rated A-II were: "A Double Life" and "A Woman's Vengeance," both Universal-International, and "News Hounds," Monogram. Columbia's "The Sign of the Ram" was rated Class B.

New York Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

Saturday gave neighborhood houses a distinct advantage over first runs, the Strand is heading for a towering $68,000 in a second week, having piled up $34,000 Friday through Sunday.

Roxy Expects $120,000

Also performing solidly, if not sensationally, is "You Were Meant for Me," together with Louis Armstrong's band on stage, at the Roxy where a first week is expected to bring in $120,000 on the basis of $96,000 grossed Wednesday through Sunday. At Radio City Music Hall, "The Paradine Case," plus a stage show, is maintaining a firm stride; $80,000 taken in Thursday through Sunday is expected to mount into $128,000 for a fourth week. Likewise, "I Walk Alone" at the Paramount, with singer Andy Russell on stage, is holding its own, with a second week expected to bring in a pleasing $80,000.

But the following houses found the frigid weather taking its toll of attendance: Capitol, "If Winter Comes," second week, a modest $51,000; Criterion, "T-Men," second week, an unimpressive $28,000; Winter Garden, "A Woman's Vengeance," first week, $23,000; Palace, "Night Song," first week, a fair $26,000, and the Warner, "Voice of the Turtle," for a final five days of a sixth and final week, a drab $8,000. "A Miracle Can Happen" opened at the Warner yesterday. Capitol's stage show features Sammy Kaye's band.

Holdovers Still Doing Well

"Open Secret," which bowed in at the Gotham on Saturday is heading for a fair $6,500 in a first week. "The Bishop's Wife," at the Astor, and "Captain from Castile," at the Rivoli, are continuing to do good business, with the former expecting $40,000 in an eighth week and "Captain" looking for $23,000 in a sixth. Also doing satisfactorily are the long-running "Body and Soul" at the Globe, which looks like $17,000 in a 13th week, and "Gentleman's Agreement," at the Mayfair, which is heading for $35,000 in a 12th week.

Cold weather hurt "The Fugitive," at the Victoria, where a mild $12,000 is seen for a sixth week. "Holiday Camp," at the Park, is doing all right in a second week, with $8,500 expected, and "I Know Where I'm Going" picked up at the Sutton where a 24th week looks like $4,700.

Licensing Ban Hit

(*Continued from page* 1)

amended and supplemental complaint upon which the hearings in the District Court were held," the brief contended. "It was not mentioned in the application for modification of the consent decree which led to those hearings. It was not mentioned in the opening (hearings) of Government's counsel in the District Court, nor during the hearings. Nor was it ever mentioned in any brief filed by the Government either before or after the hearings."

Arguing that "the devastation that this arbitrary proscription would work on this industry cannot be exaggerated," the company charged that "the obvious purpose of this last-minute innovation was to accomplish indirectly what was proven so overwhelmingly to be unwarranted in this case; that is, divestiture."

Hits 'Punitive' Intent

According to the brief, the "punitive effect" of the Government's proposal "is brought home with striking emphasis when it is recalled that in no place where Loew operates does it have market control of anything approaching monopoly of either theatre holdings or of first-run product."

It was held that the District Court was in the right in finding that Loew's did not have a monopoly of exhibition or distribution of pictures individually or collectively with other defendants.

The brief maintained that "no longer do Government counsel argue for the existence of collective monopoly," adding that "instead they now bottom their entire case for monopoly on a theory that each of the five separate producer-exhibitor companies, individually considered, is in and of itself a monopoly requiring dissolution to meet the requirements of the Sherman Act."

Denies Monopoly Charges

Loew's contended no charge of monopoly could be proved against it because it individually has "no monopoly of theatre holdings or of first-run exhibition, either locally or nationally," it "individually has no monopoly of distribution," there has been no case to support the Government's theory that its integrated business as a producer, distributor and exhibitor constitutes restraint and monopolization and the company "cannot be treated collectively with Fox, Paramount, RKO and Warner to establish a monopoly of exhibition or distribution."

The company did not deny that the houses operated by it had increased over the years, but, it added, "it has been only a very gradual, normal growth."

"The record affirmatively shows, without contradiction," it is said, "that over the 13 years preceding the hearings in this case, the theatres which Loew's operated increased by only nine, bringing its total to only 131."

Carolinas T.O.

(*Continued from page* 1)

lina, and H. H. Everett, for South Carolina.

Other officers elected at the closing session of the 36th annual convention of the organization tonight were Ed Haley, Raleigh, as vice-president, and Mrs. Walter Griffith, this city, re-elected as secretary and treasurer.

Reviews

"The Hunted"

(Allied Artists)

Hollywood, Feb. 3.

IN line with the currently popular policy of filming melodramas on the actual scene of the story, this Scott R. Dunlap production takes Los Angeles as is for its setting, Tehachapi for the women's penitentiary from which the heroine is released at the start of the proceedings, and photographs the whole with the candor of a newsreel cameraman. Singularly unglamorized, as to casting, dialogue, and even attire, are Belita and Preston Foster, the co-stars, and the supporting players. Even the action impresses as more like it might transpire in fact than in fiction, for there are no feats of deductional legerdemain or psychiatric magic concerned in the solution of the crime on which the plot rests.

Belita, who performs a skating routine midway in the picture, portrays a girl released from prison after four years of incarceration for complicity in a jewel robbery. Foster enacts a police detective who, although in love with her at the time, brought about her arrest and conviction and now takes on the job checking on her parole. He gets her a job in a skating rink, locates a residence for her, and gradually convinces himself that (1) she was not guilty of the crime and (2) he is still in love with her. About the time he gets around to these conclusions, an attorney who she years ago threatened to kill is found murdered under circumstances which appear to indicate her guilt, and she flees town. He pursues, catches up with her, and she shoots him, but he recovers in time for an ending made happy by the confession of the culprit responsible for both the jewel robbery and the murder.

Others in the cast are Pierre Watkin, Edna Holland, Russell Hicks, Frank Ferguson, Joseph Crehan, Larry Blake, Thomas Jackson, Charles McGraw and Tristram Coffin. Jack Bernhard directed from an original story and screenplay by Steve Fisher, and Glenn Cook is down as associate producer.

Running time, 85 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

W. R. W.

"The Woman from Tangier"

(Columbia)

"THE WOMAN FROM TANGIER" is a modestly-proportioned, stereotyped adventure-romance that should make its way best among neighborhood theatres. Cast is topped by blonde, curvacious Adele Jergens whose charms are bound to be duly appreciated by masculine members of the audience, and whose clothes should meet with the distinct approbation of the ladies. Hero of the piece is Stephen Dunne, as an alert American insurance company representative, who in cooperation with a French colonial police perfect (Ivan Triesault), pits his wits against those of a crookcd ocean freighter captain (Denis Green) who stole $50,000 from his own ship's safe and placed the guilt on his purser after murdering him.

Miss Jergens, an American dancer stranded in Tangier, falls in love with Dunne, but when Green's co-conspirator, Ian MacDonald, an old flame of hers, slips into town to make off with the buried loot, she finds herself, torn by divided loyalty, cooperating with him and Green. Her affection for Dunne wins out, however, and she is instrumental finally in making Dunne's incrimination of Green possible. Martin Mooney produced and Harold Daniels directed, from an original by Irwin Franklyn.

Running time, 66 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 12.

W. R. W.

Campbell Head of Canadian Exhibitors

OTTAWA, Feb. 3.—D. Roy Campbell has been named president of the Central Canada Exhibition Association, with W. A. Armstrong and E. A. Bourque as vice-presidents.

British Quota

(*Continued from page* 1)

said that a 35 per cent quota would be unrealistic and not an improvement. Belcher has promised to produce a suitable amendment dealing with those theatres finding difficulty in securing a necessary quota of British films because of circuit competition.

The quota now in effect is 22½ per cent.

British Theatre Closes

LONDON, Feb. 3.—The Associated British circuit, anticipating the predicted product shortage here, has closed its Broadway, Haywards Heath, Sussex, a 700-seater, and is turning its Hippodrome, Blackpool, one of the major amusement places in the town, into a music hall for the summer.

Heineman to E-L

(*Continued from page* 1)

will remain a member of the board of directors of the J. Arthur Rank Organization in the U. S.

Heineman entered the industry in 1918 as a booker in Seattle for Pathe Pictures and subsequently became Seattle sales manager for First National. Later, he owned and operated a Warner Brothers sub-franchise in the Northwest, and followed this with a term as Universal manager in Butte, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. In 1930 he was named Pacific Coast district manager for Universal, rising, in 1938, to the post of Western sales manager for that company; in 1941 he became assistant general sales manager.

Heineman remained with Universal until 1943, when he became general sales manager for Samuel Goldwyn, resigning early in 1946 to join United World Pictures as vice-president and general sales manager. With the dissolution of United World at the time of the merger of Universal and International Pictures, he became general sales manager of the J. Arthur Rank division of Universal. Heineman will assume his new duties immediately.

Brandt Asks Court

(*Continued from page* 1)

dence" which ordinarily is presented during court proceedings, attorneys explained yesterday. Louis Nizer, Paramount counsel, withheld comment yesterday on Brandt's motion.

"I have been advised by my attorneys," Brandt said in his affidavit, "that the inclusion of this evidentiary matter in the complaint was not only unnecessary, but also improper and in many respects irrelevant to the pleading of the various causes of action alleged by the plaintiff herein and can only have been done for the ulterior purposes hereinafter exposed."

Cites Fight Against Majors

Paramount's "motive in publishing and disseminating the unnecessary evidentiary and libelous allegations is readily discernible," the document later states, asserting that "plaintiff is one of the monopolistic giants in the production and distribution of motion pictures. Its practices have been adjudicated illegal and oppressive against exhibitors." Brandt then claims he has been an exhibitor for 32 years and has "achieved a position of leadership and importance," and has been "a leader in the fight of independent exhibitors against the monopoly of the plaintiff and other motion picture producers and distributors and their affiliated exhibitor corporations."

Brandt charges Paramount with having instituted a "campaign of vilification conducted and to be conducted through the press."

Para. Charges Bribery, Deceit

Paramount's action alleges that the "defendants Harry Brandt, Bernard B. Brandt, Louis Brandt and William Brandt, doing business under the name of Brandt Theatres, in collaboration with the other defendants" allegedly conspired "to defraud the plaintiff by making, or causing to be made . . . false and inaccurate statements of the gross admission receipts" from percentage pictures. Complaint charges also that some of the defendants "induced checkers by bribery, deceit and other means, to sign certain of the written reports pertaining to the box office receipts of percentage pictures" and that the defendants' alleged acts of under-reporting "were willfully, deliberately and fraudulently committed."

Weisman said yesterday that Brand's booking service has been "operating at a loss" and for the purpose of being of service to exhibitors.

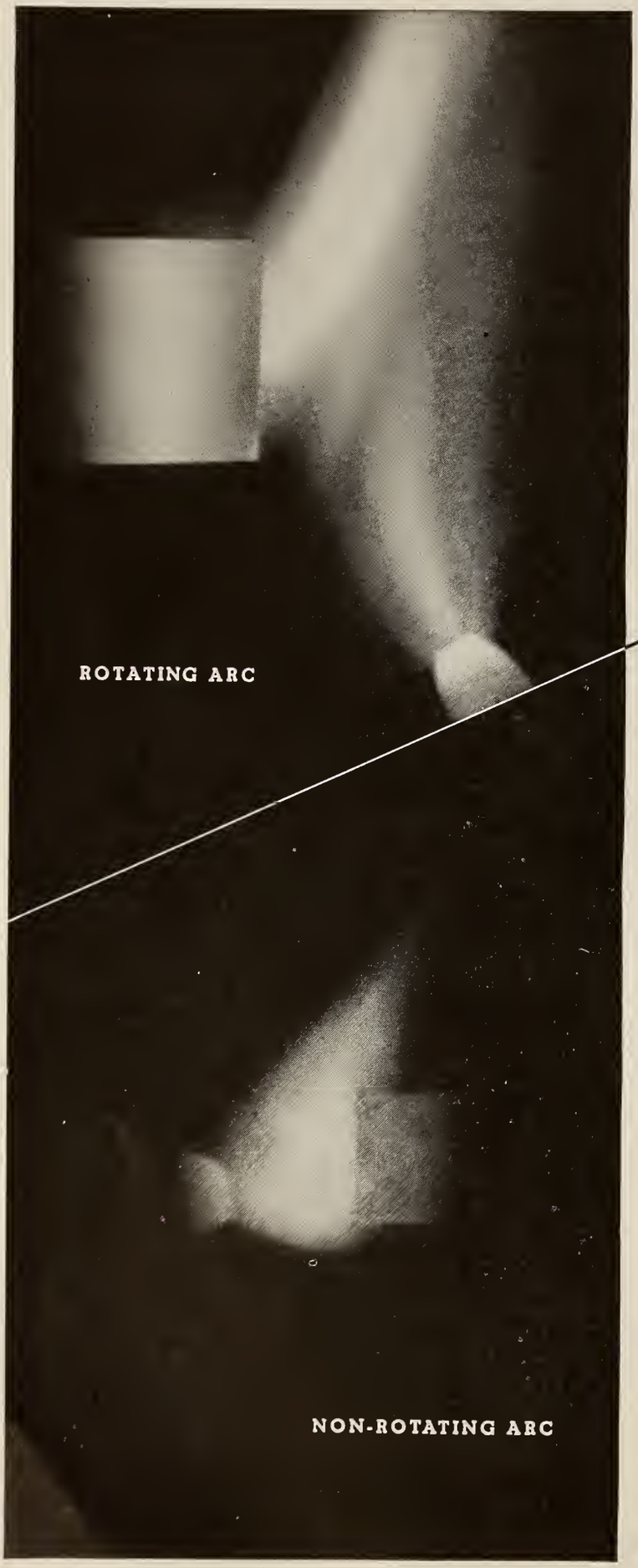
Belgium to Unify Its Aides in the Industry

BRUSSELS, Feb. 3. — The Belgian government is creating a commission to bring together all ministerial officials having to deal with motion pictures as an industry, an art or an educational medium. This commission will deal with taxes, international conventions regulating the production and distribution of motion pictures, the interests of the Belgian film industry, and with the manufacture and distribution of films for schools and elsewhere to promote education and culture.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 25 . NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1948 TEN CENTS

$60 Millions Overseas Aid Asked of U. S.

Total for Films, Other Media Held 'Impossible'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Figures presented by the film industry and other information media as to how much they would like the U. S. Government to help them out in their overseas operations and frozen funds adds up to $60,000,000 a year, a top State Department official said here today.

He declared that it would be impossible to take to Congress a request for so large an appropriation, and indicated that paring down the figures and getting documented facts to back them up will probably postpone for several months any substantial aid program under the Smith-Mundt Bill.

"If we all step on the gas," he said, "maybe we will get somewhere in a few months and that will just be the beginning of the drive to get the money from Congress."

John McCarthy, of the Motion Picture Export Association, took the film

(*Continued on page* 4)

Ascap Bd. Weighs Backing Lewis Bill

Although sentiment among American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers directors was favorable toward the Lewis bill, which is now pending in Congress and which would add theatre music license fees to film rentals, the Ascap board of directors postponed taking a stand in support of the measure at a meeting here yesterday.

Further consideration of the proposal will be given by the board at its next meeting later this month.

The board also deferred action on

(*Continued on page* 4)

U. S. Awaits Ascap Per-piece Formula

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Justice Department is not likely to take any action on exhibitor complaints against Ascap until it sees the new per-piece rate formula it has asked Ascap to work out.

A Department official said that Justice asked Ascap to get the new for-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Storm Slashes N. Y. Grosses

Business was off yesterday as much as 50 per cent at New York's downtown first-run theatres during the day as another snowstorm swept the area, and grosses continued off during the night as the storm persisted.

One of the hardest hit first-runs was the Astor, where the gross was reported to be 50 per cent off. The Roxy and the Paramount did not suffer too badly by late afternoon when business was a little more than 10 per cent off. However, a sharp decline in grosses was seen as nightfall approached.

Radio City Music Hall's business was reported to be 20 to 25 per cent off. The Winter Garden and Warner were similarly hit. The Criterion was even harder hit, with the day's gross estimated to be 30 to 40 per cent under earlier expectations. The Rivoli reported business off 25 to 30 per cent.

Business at the other first-runs generally was cut by as much as 50 per cent or more.

Blumenfeld Buys Four First-runs

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 4.—Blumenfeld Circuit has acquired four first-run theatres from Salvador Enean and Vincent A. Davi, mayor of Pittsburg, Cal., in a deal consummated by J. R. Saul, theatre broker.

Houses involved were the Enean (1,000 seats), California (1,000), and Place (750), all in Pittsburg, and the Enean (1,100), in Concord. Purchase prices were not disclosed.

Storm Brings Early Home Office Closings

Recalling the transportation difficulties which attended the record snowstorm of last Dec. 26, most film distributor and circuit offices here closed early yesterday because of the storm which swept the city and environs. Some film company ome offices closed as early as three P.M.

Warner Reopens Its Teddington Studios

LONDON, Feb. 4.—A move to promote increased British production by independent companies was announced here by Arthur S. Abeles, Jr., director of Warner Pictures, in reopening the company's studios at Teddington in Middlesex.

As a result of the efforts of Jack L. Warner, the company's executive producer in America, and Max Milder, managing director in Britain who is currently visiting the U. S., the studios have been rebuilt; they were destroyed by a bomb in 1944.

"Teddington is Warner's answer to critics who say American companies are trying to hinder independent picture-making in this country," Abeles declared, stating that with the exception of an occasional picture which Warner Brothers might make there the studios will be open to anyone who has a picture to produce.

Claude Rains will come to Teddington to make "Silent Dust," Abeles said. N. A. Bronsten, producer, will start the film immediately after finishing "The Noose." Details are being discussed with two other independents.

UK In World Market 'Grab', Congress Told

Rep. McDonough Avers U.K. Impedes Our Films

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Congressman Gordon L. McDonough warned the House of Representatives today that Britain is seeking to capture the world film market.

Citing recent statements by J. Arthur Rank in London which he claimed definitely indicated this, McDonough said Britain was shutting out American films by the 75 per cent tax, while at the same time asking the American industry to give more playing time here to British films.

He declared that when he voted against the British Loan Agreement, he did so because he felt American dollars would be used to back British competition with American business, and that recent developments in the film field confirmed his stand.

Moreover, he stated, Congress has refused to help the motion picture industry by keeping the high 20 per cent admission tax.

Stiffen Anti-Rank UK Quota Provision

LONDON, Feb. 4.—British Board of Trade president Harold Wilson's amendment calling for a Jan. 1, 1948, operative date in the British film quota bill's clause covering the special quota for theatres in "circuits of over 200," has been changed to agree with a subsequent amendment calling for a Sept. 1, 1947, operative date.

This would make even more ironclad the protection Wilson is seeking

(*Continued on page* 4)

Universal's Fortunes Held Dependent on Block Sales

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—That the prosperity of Universal Pictures is greatly dependent upon the continuance of block selling was emphasized by the company in its trust suit appeal brief filed with the U. S. Supreme Court.

The company submitted that "its business reasons for endeavoring to license its seasons' product as a block, before production, are obvious, since the licensing of run-of-the-mine pictures, one by one, after production, would be exorbitantly expensive and highly speculative," adding that "equally obvious are the business reasons for its customers wanting to stock

(*Continued on page* 4)

IATSE and IBEW Sign Peace Pact

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Settlement of the oldest jurisdictional dispute in studio labor was announced today in a joint statement by IATSE and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The unions have been in controversy over jurisdiction in sound department work since 1929.

The dispute was one of the causes for the 1933 strike and figured importantly also in the 1945 strike, remaining in effect following the unions' refusal to accept a directive from

(*Continued on page* 4)

Radio Poll Awards Photos on Page 5

Scrolls of achievement have been presented to winners in the 25 classifications comprising the 12th annual (1947) *Motion Picture Daily-Fame* Radio Poll.

On Page 5 of this issue are pictures of presentations of the scrolls being made to some of those who were voted tops in their classifications in the recent poll of radio editors and critics.

Personal Mention

TRACY BARHAM, vice-president and general manager of Intermountain Theatres, Salt Lake City, has been appointed state coordinator in Utah for American Overseas Aid for the United Nations' children's appeal.

•

VINCENT TROTTA, National Screen Service art director, will be guest chairman for the Feb. 20 meeting of Associated Motion Picture Advertisers at the Town Hall Club.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON, Motion Picture Association of America president, will be a guest on MARTHA DEANE'S Mutual Broadcasting program next Wednesday.

•

H. A. COLE, president of Allied Theatre Owners of Texas, has been re-elected head of the Texas Auction Bridge Association.

•

WILLIAM GOLDMAN, Philadelphia circuit owner, left that city yesterday by plane for a vacation in Bermuda.

•

MURRAY MACBRIDE, manager, of Fox-Intermountain's Babcock Theatre in Billings, Mont., has resigned to enter another business.

•

GEORGE H. BOOKBINDER, distributor of U. S. films in the Balkans, will leave here March 5 for a three-month tour of Italy and the Balkans.

•

HOMER CLARK, former Columbia sales representative in Tennessee, has joined United Artists in that capacity in Atlanta.

•

HARRY MCWILLIAMS, Columbia exploitation manager, is due back here tomorrow from Boston.

•

A. J. WOLF, manager of the Avalon Theatre, Baltimore, and MRS. WOLF have become parents of a son.

•

RAYMOND EDWARDS has become Kay Exchanges sales representative in Florida.

•

HERBERT LEEDS, director, is due in Chicago today from New York.

Kenneth Greene, 46

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 4.—Kenneth E. Greene, 46, of Guilford, Conn., who was formerly art director at New York's Roxy Theatre and on the art staff of the Strand Theatre before that, died last night. He had been ill for more than a year. He leaves a widow and five sons.

Mrs. Geo. Harvey Dead

Services for Mrs. George Harvey, wife of Paramount's press book editor, will be held on Saturday in St. John the Baptist Church, Yonkers. Interment will follow in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Westchester. Mrs. Harvey died on Tuesday following an operation.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

THE pattern is not a pattern unless the pieces are put together. Here are three pieces which make one pattern:

Warner is launching a production unit which will serve as a sort of experimental outpost for new and promising talent. Costs will be in keeping with the blueprint. This means they will be moderate.

Metro is launching a series of exploitation films, based on topical themes in semi-documentary treatment. Their budgets admittedly will be moderate. Maybe even modest, or as modest as Metro can ever get.

N. Peter Rathvon, reviewing RKO's situation the other day, declared his company plans a few more lower-budget pictures than last year. Because: "There is always a market for them; we seem to know how to make them and it keeps the studio busy."

■

Set aside any idea this is all an accident. Or any swapping of notes, either. Actually, it is as simple as it was inevitable and goes something like this:

The production curve dropped sharply during the war when it became evident far fewer attractions were required to keep first-run accounts supplied. Independents and exhibitor association leaders who have been exercising their lung-power over this state of affairs had something on which to practice, of course. What they ignored, however, was the fact that important pictures rely on important first-run money. No distributor will fancy a condition depriving him of subsequent and small-town revenue, of course. But no major distributor can stay alive without the other.

■

The pendulum is now swinging in the pre-war direction. Other avenues of spending have opened up for the public. An uncomfortable percentage of the product is not clicking. Some exhibitors, their judgment often misled by the first money drawn by each new attraction, are not getting all possible revenue from the attraction they are playing. For one reason or another, runs gradually are growing shorter and open playing time longer.

Therefore, somebody's product will have to fill these gaps.

Since there are all kinds of first-runs, it is not remote that part of the product which will come of the moderate-cost line is being designed to meet a condition with which no one has had to be concerned in the past five or six years.

If this analysis is correct, success naturally will depend upon the quality of the merchandise. If wrong, in any event the development indicates the numerically depressed curve of production is destined to rise, in all likelihood to a level not known for half a decade. This is enough to cause rejoicing.

■ ■

"If current employment and wage scales are to be maintained, there must be increasing efficiency and productivity on the part of all the industry's workers," is one of the many interesting observations in Universal's interesting annual report.

This is an oblique plea to Hollywood unions often accused of "featherbedding."

■ ■

General admission tax collections—from all sources, except cabarets, and principally from motion pictures—last year were $389,867,479, or $8,347,262 ahead of the 1946 collections of $381,520,217.

If business is so terrible, where is this money coming from?

■ ■

Lots of pride around Loew's because:

Dividends paid stockholders total $17,000,000 from 1923 to date.

The company has never been in the red.

Two excellent reasons.

■ ■

What's this about a Wall Street syndicate trying ever so quietly to acquire stock control of one of the distributing companies? [Not RKO. Not UA]

■ ■

Capsule on the Chicago situation, brought to a boiling point by the Jackson Park decision:

"It's progressed from mere confusion to utter."

Reelect Disney Officers

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Roy Disney, president of Walt Disney Productions, and all other officers and directors were reelected at the annual meeting here yesterday.

GPE Dividend

Directors of General Precision Equipment Corp. have declared a dividend of 25 cents per share on the capital stock, payable March 15 to stockholders of record on Feb. 25.

U-I Officials Set for Exchange Opening

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—Heading a home office contingent expected to attend the official opening of Universal-International's new $400,000 film exchange here on Feb. 9 will be William J. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager, and E. T. Gomersall, A. J. O'Keefe, Charles Feldman, James J. Jordan, F. T. Murray and Maurice Bergman.

In addition to city officials, other company executives, exhibitors and screen and radio personalities will attend.

Texas Theatre Owners Aid Memorial Drive

DALLAS, Feb. 4.—In closing the two-day meeting of Theatre Owners of Texas here, R. J. O'Donnell, vice-president of Interstate Circuit, appealed for finishing the job of establishing a memorial for the battleship *Texas*. TOT president Harry Reeve of Menard, Tex., disclosed that 325 prints of a trailer, telling the story of the battleship and starring Linda Darnell and Dana Andrews, will be exhibited in Texas theatres during a two-week campaign to raise funds for the memorial.

Drive for Members Launched by TESMA

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—Theatre Equipment and Supply Manufacturers Association has embarked on a drive for new members, Ray Boomer, secretary, announces.

New legislation, restrictions and embargoes are in the making, Boomer asserted, and it is his belief that the combined efforts of the entire industry are necessary to keep it on a sound basis.

News Briefs

Stern to Handle Masterpiece Releases in Pittsburgh Area

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 4.—Acquisition of distribution facilities for Masterpiece Productions, in Pittsburgh was announced today by Jules Weill, Masterpiece president, who named Bert Stern, Screen Guild Productions distributor here, to handle the 39 former United Artists releases on the Masterpiece schedule.

Carolina Theatremen Condemn Showing of Sex in Films

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 4.—A resolution condemning the showing of sex attractions and newspaper advertising about them, was passed at the closing session of the 36th annual convention of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina.

Theatre Video Demonstration In Bronx Hotel on February 12

A public showing of theatre-size television will take place at the Concourse Plaza Hotel in the Bronx on Feb. 12. It will be sponsored jointly by the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and Colonial Television Corp.

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LIFE SAID THIS ABOUT

WARNERS' "TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE":

"One of the few movies which genuinely deserve to be called 'great'!"

HUMPHREY BOGART · and WALTER HUSTON · TIM HOLT · BRUCE BENNETT

Directed by JOHN HUSTON · Produced by HENRY BLANKE

Screen Play by John Huston • Based on the Novel by B. Traven • Music by Max Steiner

Jackson Pk. Decree 'Solution' Seen

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—What may be a partial solution of the adverse effects on distributors from the Jackson Park decree for some pictures appears with the Monroe Theatre, located in the Loop, having booked M-G-M's "Desire Me" for a first-run showing starting Feb. 18.

The house, which up to now has been using a second-run double feature policy, may switch to a first-run policy pending the outcome of the "Desire" showing. The Monroe may prove to be a solution for other distributors involved in the Jackson Park decree, inasmuch as this house is not restricted to a two-week run limit.

This marks the third M-G-M film set for the Loop since the company withheld releases pending clarification of the decree, the other two being "Dolphin Street" and "Killer McCoy." The Monroe will use a straight 95-cent top admission.

Labor Peace Pact

(*Continued from page* 1)

American Federation of Labor arbiters.

Today's announcement says the agreement reached "amplifies and implements" that directive.

With settlement of this inter-union fight, which has represented substantial expense production-wise, the present conflict between IATSE and the Carpenters' union remains the single major labor problem here.

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Review

"Jassy"

(*Rank-Universal-International*)

THE story of a humble gypsy maiden's rise from a farmhouse hand to the ownership of an imposing British manor is recounted in Technicolor splendor, but without distinction, in J. Arthur Rank's "Jassy." As the gypsy girl with clairvoyant gifts, Margaret Lockwood interprets the title role with poise and decorative effect. Others in the Sydney Box production are Patricia Roc, Dennis Price, Basil Sydney and Dermot Walsh.

A story of strong, clashing wills and fateful twists, it develops into cross-currents of love that involve a set of people. Basic ingredients of the drama may appeal to many, but the more discriminating filmgoers may find it hard to take the story's reliance on coincidence and strained effect. Also, while the story has a certain vitality, it dissipates it in too many directions.

After many twists and turns, the screenplay has Miss Lockwood reach her pinnacle by gaining possession of the manor through marriage to a crude and temperamental snob. As expected, this does not work out, and the picture goes into its climactic scenes when the husband is poisoned by a speechless servant, and Miss Lockwood, through circumstantial evidence, is held guilty. By the final curtain things clear up, with Miss Lockwood about to share the estate through marriage with Walsh, whose rightful claim to the manor was forfeited by his father's gambling caprice.

Miss Roc makes an attractive youngster who is not always noble about her loves and loyalties. A Gainsborough Picture, the screenplay by Dorothy and Campbell Christie and Geoffrey Kerr was from the novel by Norah Lofts. Bernard Knowles directed.

Running time, 96 minutes. Adult audience clasification. Release date: Not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Skouras Says Rank Parleys Amicable

Declaring relations between 20th Century-Fox and J. Arthur Rank and his British interests as having never been more amicable than at present, Spyros Skouras yesterday said that negotiations concerning the proposed pooling of the Gaumont-British circuit, in which 20th-Fox has a 50 per cent interest, and the Odeon circuit will be resumed when Rank arrives here next month.

Skouras returned early this week from London where, he said, a basic plan of action with respect to the pooling was agreed upon with the "cooperative and helpful" assistance of Rank.

U. S. Awaits Formula

(*Continued from page* 1)

mula in just as soon as possible, and that he hoped to see it "in the near future."

Some time ago the Department told exhibitors that it could not give them any anti-trust relief against Ascap until the per-piece formula in the 1941 consent decree had been tried and found wanting. Exhibitor organizations returned to the Department, claiming the per-piece rates are too high and the system unworkable, and Justice asked Ascap to work up a new, "more reasonable" per-piece rate formula. Theatre owners now bombarding the Department are apparently being told they must wait until this formula is given a trial.

Weigh Lewis Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

proposals by Theatre Owners of America for new theatre music license rates. The TOA rate proposals were discussed and alternate proposals were advanced by management and board members without final action being taken by the Ascap board.

Indications were that the board is disposed to meet TOA's proposals more than half way, but not in full. Another meeting between Ascap and TOA officials is expected to be held sometime next week.

$60 Millions Asked

(*Continued from page* 1)

industry's figures to the State Department today. With figures now in from film producers and magazine and newspaper publishers, and with the book industry still to be heard from, the Department official came up with the $60,000,000 a year figure. The entire "Voice of America" program asked for only $36,000,000 last year, and wound up with a little more than $12,000,000.

The State Department official admitted that he had not realized the huge sums involved, and said he was sure no member of Congress or any other officials who have been urging a solution of the frozen funds situation appreciated the amount at stake.

"I can't see us asking Mr. Taber for anything like this kind of money," this official said. Rep. Taber is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and a standing critic of the voice program.

The $60,000,000 figure is what the various industries would like to get from Uncle Sam. What the State Department hopes to wind up with eventually is the bare minimum figure which will induce film-producers, and other groups, to continue sending their products abroad.

Anti-Rank Provision

(*Continued from page* 1)

against a possible rush toward change of theatre ownerships before the quota bill becomes law and against the danger of a big change in the existing balance of power among circuits.

The Wilson amendment, previously described as being aimed in particular against the proposed pooling of J. Arthur Rank's Gaumont-British and Odeon circuits, is expected to have the additional effect of restricting Rank's extended playing time experiment born of the product shortage which followed imposition of the *ad valorem* tax on U. S. films.

List Four as 'Adult'

TORONTO, Feb. 4.—Ontario censors have listed as "adult entertainment" "I Walk Alone," "The Flame," "The Upturned Glass" and "Nightmare Alley."

Universal Appeal

(*Continued from page* 1)

up for an entire season so that *they* will not run short of pictures."

Holding that "offering to license and licensing pictures in groups is entirely legal," the brief argued that "it is mutually advantageous for non-integrated distributors and independent exhibitors to make wholesale deals in feature pictures."

After pointing out that the large majority of its features "have been in the medium and lower-quality brackets," the brief asserted that "the demand for such pictures is naturally greatest among the rank ond file theatres, which are preponderantly independent."

Stress 'Competitive' Factor

"Such theatres are in competition with theatres affiliated with the major defendants, and with theatres in the large independent chains possessing great buying power," counsel for the company said. "The uncontradicted testimony is that the buying and selling of feature pictures in groups is advantageous alike to the distributor and the exhibitor who does not possess the buying power to command a wide choice of product."

The company asserted that "no claim can be made that Universal 'block-booked' in combination of conspiracy with any of the other defendants" and that "the conditioning of the licensing of one picture upon the licensing of another is legal in the case of a non-monopolistically-situated distributor."

Touching on minimum admission prices, the brief contended that "Universal, a medium-sized distributor, does not and cannot possibly set its own price, even in the case of a small independent exhibitor—much less in the case of a large theatre chain." It was asserted that "no limitation is placed upon the exhibitor's right to charge more than this price, and thus to fix his own terms for any additional entertainment provided or other motion pictures shown."

Exclusivity Held 'Legal'

Universal claimed that since such arrangements "diminish the exclusivity it is legally entitled to give," the company was "clearly" exercising its legal rights "in licensing its copyrighted feature pictures in a series of exclusive runs, followed by clearance periods agreed upon with the licensee, in aid of exclusivity."

It was denied that Universal had indulged in block-booking "as defined by the court below," which, the company charged, "includes the connotation of conditioning the licensing of one picture upon the acceptance of others."

Counsel for Universal asked that the Government's complaint be dismissed and that the decree be modified in accordance with suggestions contained in its brief.

Rosenthal to Appeal Hearings Representing TOA of Albany

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 4.—Leonard Rosenthal, counsel for the Theatre Owners of America's Albany affiliate, will accompany Herman Levy, TOA general counsel, to next week's U. S. Supreme Court New York trust suit appeal hearings in Washington. He will report his observations to the TOA when he returns here.

Next Albany TOA meeting will be held on Feb. 16. Meanwhile the local organization is studying the national TOA's *amicus curiae* brief filed in the case.

Scrolls Given Winners of 1947 Radio Poll

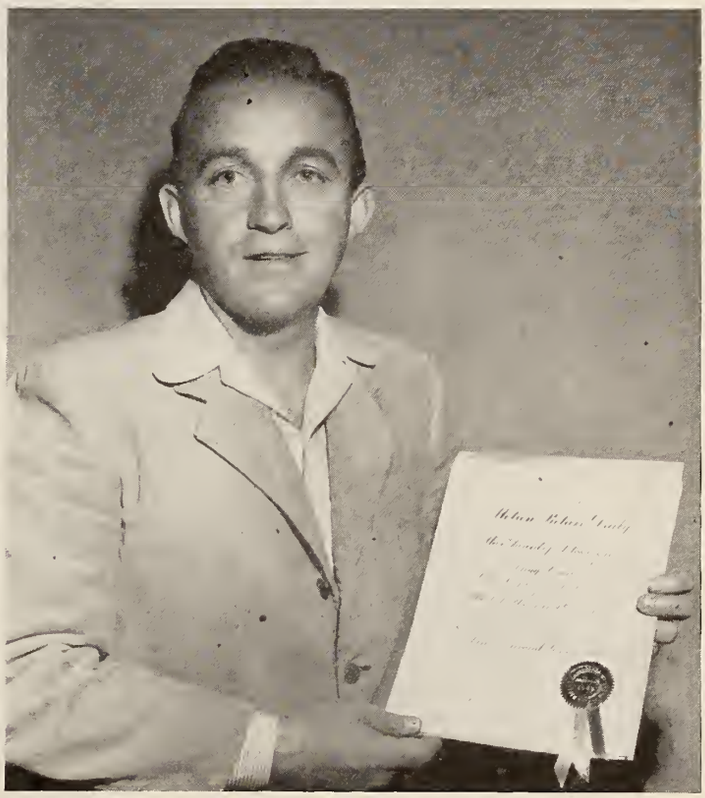
PERFORMERS and programs voted best-on-the-air by radio editors and critics in the 12th annual MOTION PICTURE DAILY-FAME Radio Poll of recent date have been awarded scrolls commemorating their achievements. Pictured herewith are some of those who received scrolls. Presentations were made in New York and Hollywood, many over Coast-to-Coast hook-ups.



Fred Allen, (right) voted Champion of Champions, Best Comedian, Best Comedy Show, repeating his 1946 triumph, receives awards from Sherwin Kane, editor of Motion Picture Daily.



Fred Waring, (left) whose shows were voted Best Daytime and Best Musical Program, receives scrolls from Red Kann, vice-president of Quigley Publications.



Bing Crosby, who pressed Allen closely for championship honors, received scrolls as Best Popular Male Vocalist, Best Master of Ceremonies, Film Personality Most Effective in Radio.

(U. S. Army Photo)

Bill Stern, chosen Best Sportscaster by radio editors and critics for ninth consecutive year, accepts scroll from Red Kann.
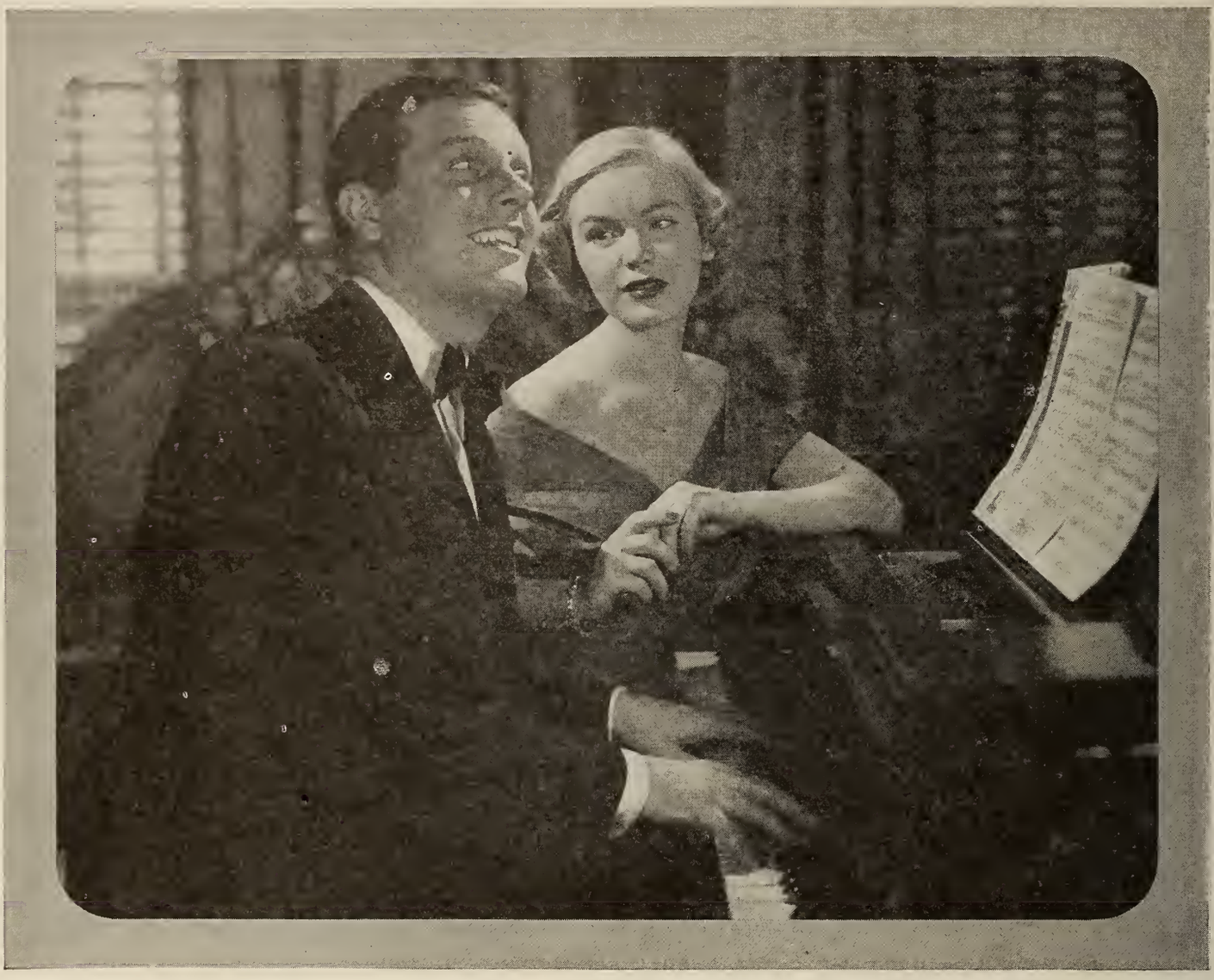




Joan Davis, perennial winner of the Best Comedienne award, receives scroll from Ben Gage, CBS Hollywod announcer.



Ralph Edwards, in Hollywood, accepts scroll for his Truth Or Consequences program, voted Best Audience Participation Show.





She keeps the romance running smoothly...

THE spell of this picture's song and story might suddenly be broken . . . but for film row's "first lady," the exchange inspectress.

With unrelenting vigilance, she has inspected every inch of film before each booking...checked it for worn perforations, torn splices, and other signs of wear and tear that might hinder smooth projection and mar the enchantment of the show. By this painstaking care of film and unceasing effort to keep each reel running smoothly, the inspectress has earned a place of importance behind the scenes of motion picture distribution.

And her work is all the more easily done for the quality and reliability she finds in the release prints made on Eastman film.

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Building Curb Expected to End by Feb. 29

Controls Are Dropped From New Housing Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—It looks like controls over theatre construction will end this month, a Senate Banking and Currency sub-committee today having recommended that the Administration's power to curb theatre and other amusement construction be dropped after Feb. 29.

That is the date the present rent control and housing law expires, and it is under this law that the theatre curb is administered. The Senate group today reported out a new rent control law, minus any amusement construction limitation.

The new bill now goes to the full committee for approval, with little opposition expressed so far to dropping the limitation order.

Members of the House Banking and Currency Committee, which is now holding hearings on rents and housing, also now seem little inclined to continue the curb.

MPAA Capital Talk Turns to France

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The French problem took the spotlight today in the Motion Picture Association of America's review of the foreign situation.

MPAA foreign chief Gerald Mayer and the association's Paris representative, Frank McCarthy, arrived here today and had conferences with State Department officials on the outlook for remittances and getting some blocked funds unfrozen. One of the points dis-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Reciprocity on Films Set by Argentina

Buenos Aires, Feb. 5.—Argentina has lifted restrictions on U.S. motion pictures, it was reported today, with foreign films being placed on a strict reciprocal basis. Since there are no restrictions against Argentine films in the U.S., there will be no curbs here, according to the report.

Davis Lead-Off, Byrnes Anchor-Man for Appeals

US May Have Clark, Wright and Sonnett

Washington, Feb. 5.—The Government is expected to open and close the Supreme Court argument in the Paramount case, Justice Department spokesmen said today.

It is expected that if his schedule permits, Attorney General Tom Clark will begin argument of the case for the Government and Robert Wright, head of the motion picture section of the anti-trust division, is expected to take over where the Attorney General leaves off. Assistant Attorney General John F. Sonnett will conclude the argument, Justice officials said.

Defense attorneys in the Government anti-trust suit against the industry agreed at a meeting here yesterday on a schedule for their appearances before the Supreme Court next week for arguments on appeals.

John W. Davis, counsel for Loew's, will be lead-off man for the defendants and James F. Byrnes, counsel for 20th Century-Fox and a former Supreme Court Justice himself, will be anchor man under the schedule worked out.

Following Davis, in order, will be Whitney North Seymour, counsel for Paramount; General William J. Donovan, RKO counsel; Louis D. Frohlich, Columbia counsel; Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal counsel; Edward C. Raftery, United Artists counsel, and Joseph M. Proskauer, Warners counsel, with Byrnes in the mop-up spot.

The Government will open the

(*Continued on page 4*)

Deadlock Continues On Exchange Wages

The deadlock in negotiations between the IATSE and the film companies' exchange representatives over new wage and hour demands involving over 6,000 employes in 32 U. S. exchanges remained unbroken yesterday following a six-hour meeting of the negotiators and L. A. Stone, of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, at Warners home office here. Another meeting will be held on Tuesday.

Principal argument is over the new wage scale proposed by the "IA,"

(*Continued on page 3*)

See UA Deal with Cagneys 'Imminent'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Agreement for United Artists' distribution of William and James Cagney's production of "The Time of Your Life" appeared imminent as Gradwell L. Sears, UA president, and Arthur W. Kelly, executive vice-president, today held a screening of the picture in company with the Cagneys. The UA executives arrived here this morning.

It is expected that the principals will confer tonight or tomorrow on final details. Likelihood that the agreement might include future Cagney product gained support in informed circles here.

Johnston Will Be 1st Labor Witness

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, will be the lead-off witness on Feb. 17 when Rep. Carroll D. Kearns (R., Pa.) opens his House Labor Sub-Committee hearings on the Hollywood jurisdictional strike situation.

Afternoon witness on the first day of the hearings will be William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Kearns said.

On Feb. 18, several motion picture company presidents, subpoenaed by the sub-committee will appear, although Kearns said he did not know exactly which presidents would be present.

Richard F. Walsh, international president of the IATSE, will be the first witness the following morning.

NJ Owners Launch Tax Fight Today

The Federation of New Jersey Theatre Owners, representing affiliated circuits and organized and unorganized independents, will meet in Newark today to map plans for challenging the right of the Newark City Council to levy proposed sliding-scale admission taxes which, if adopted, would set a precedent for almost

(*Continued on page 4*)

Charges D. of J. Links Blocks To Franchises

Columbia Brief Supports Multi-Selling as Legal

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—A charge that the Government is associating block-booking with franchise agreements, which have been held illegal, in an attempt to brand the group-selling of pictures as a violation of the law was on file here today with the U. S. Supreme Court. The accusation was made by Columbia Pictures in reply to the Government in the industry anti-trust suit appeal, hearings on which are scheduled to start on Monday.

The Columbia brief asserted that the Government strove to support the District Court's decision on group sales "by pretending that block-booking is tied up with franchise agreements; and since franchise agreements have been held illegal, block-booking must also be illegal."

"This is merely an attempt by the Government to evade the issues presented on block-booking," counsel for the company argued. "Unable to find any proof in this record which would

(*Continued on page 4*)

Amici Curiae Briefs Hit by 'Big Five'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The five theatre-owning defendants in the Government anti-trust suit today filed with the Supreme Court a short brief stating their opposition to briefs submitted by six *amici curiae* in the case.

Declaring that *amici curiae* briefs are based on the assumption that the five major defendants must be treated collectively as a monopoly, the brief stated that the case was tried "on the theory that the defendants had acquired a monopoly." The brief said

(*Continued on page 4*)

State Film Censor Test Due in April

ALBANY, Feb. 5.—The examination for director of the motion picture division of the New York State Education Department is expected to be held in April. Applications at deadline reached 12. The examination may be written, oral, or both. Difficulty

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

ARTHUR B. KRIM, Eagle-Lion president, is due in New York today from Hollywood for conferences with WILLIAM J. HEINEMAN, newly-appointed distribution chief, and MAX YOUNGSTEIN, advertising-publicity director.

•

FRANK C. HENSLER, field assistant to M-G-M Central sales manager JOHN J. MALONEY, is due here Monday from Detroit to spend a month at the home office.

•

LOUIS JOFFE, of RKO Theatres legal department, and his wife, PEGGY FOLDES, of RKO Theatres publicity department, will leave New York today for Los Angeles.

•

HERMAN RIPPS, field assistant to M-G-M Eastern sales manager JOHN P. BYRNE, has returned to Albany, N. Y., from here.

•

BOB HOPE will be master of ceremonies tomorrow night at the White House Radio Correspondents dinner in Washington.

•

ROBERT M. GILLHAM, Eastern director of advertising and publicity for Selznick Releasing Organization, is expected here Monday from Florida.

•

J. E. MCLEROY has returned to his post as Monogram salesman in Charlotte following his recuperation from an operation.

•

BRYAN FOY, Eagle-Lion production chief, is expected here shortly from the Coast.

•

BEN GOETZ, M-G-M head of production in England, will leave New York for the Coast today.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, M-G-M short subject sales head, is due here today from Buffalo and Cleveland.

•

JOHN F. REEDER, Walt Disney Prod. vice-president, returned to the Coast yesterday from New York.

•

SYLVIA FINE, Warner associate producer, has returned to Hollywood from New York.

•

ROY HAINES, Warner Western division sales manager, will arrive in Chicago today from New York.

•

MAX MENDEL, Film Classics foreign manager, has arrived in Venezuela from New York.

•

WILLIAM WILDER, independent producer, is in town from Hollywood.

•

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA is expected here by plane tomorrow from London.

•

W. T. TIDWELL, Warner office manager in Charlotte, has resigned.

•

CARL KNUDSEN has purchased the State Theatre in Red Cloud, Neb.

News Briefs . . .

Victory and Defense Medals Awarded to 110 Paramounteers

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Victory and American Defense Medals were presented to 110 Paramount employes and players who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, at ceremonies at the company's Hollywood studio last night. Maj. Gen. W. Melville Robertson, Deputy Commander of the Sixth Army, conducted the ceremonies. He also presented a citation to Marlene Dietrich "in recognition for distinguished service in entertaining members of the Armed Forces overseas."

Among those who received awards were Frank Capra, Sam Briskin, George Stevens, Anatole Litvak, Eugene Zukor, Audie Murphy (most decorated soldier of the war), Paul Lees (most decorated Marine), William Holden, Richard Webb, Mel Epstein and Jesse Lasky, Jr.

Eric Johnston Sees Truman On Annual 'Collier' Award

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Motion Picture Association President Eric Johnston and *Collier's* publisher, William I. Chenery had a 15-minute White House conference with President Truman today, but money and frozen funds never came up; they were trying to get a date fixed for the President to present *Collier's* annual award to distinguished members of Congress, and Johnston is chairman of the award committee.

Set First Two for Powell, Pressburger in Combination

Michael Powell's and Emeric Pressburger's first production as producer collaborators, for Alexander Korda, will be Nigel Balchin's "The Small Backroom," to star David Farrar, which starts March 10. The second to be made by this unit will be Mary Webb's "Gone to Earth," Korda's office here reports.

'Arch' Premieres Set in Florida

Enterprise's "Arch of Triumph" will have its world premiere at the Paramount Theatre, Palm Beach, and at the Colony, Miami Beach, simultaneously on Feb. 17. United Artists is distributing. Henri Bonnet, French Ambassador to the U. S., has been invited to attend the Miami Beach opening.

Managers' Unit Dance Tonight

Mayor William O'Dwyer heads the list of those invited to attend the first annual entertainment and dance of the Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers' and Assistant Managers' Guild at the Hotel Astor here tonight. George Dunn is president of the guild.

Cinecolor Meeting Monday

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Annual meeting of Cinecolor stockholders will be held Monday at the company's Burbank headquarters, it was announced today.

20th-Fox Spy Film Object Of Protests in Canada

TORONTO, Feb. 5.—A pressure campaign has been launched here by persons believed to be Communist sympathizers to protest the exhibition in Canada of 20th Century-Fox's forthcoming film, "The Iron Curtain." Names of officials in the distributing company's office in Toronto are reported to be circulated in some quarters as the ones to whom protests are to be addressed. The film is based on the information supplied by Igor Gouzenko, formerly of the Russian Embassy in Ottawa, on Soviet espionage in this country.

Grant Construction Permits For Eight Video Stations

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5. — Construction permits have been issued for eight Newspaper Enterprise Association commercial television stations by the Federal Communications Commission.

Recipients were: Birmingham Broadcasting Co., Birmingham; Miami Valley Broadcasting Corp., Dayton; WFBM, Inc., Indianapolis; Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Co., Charlotte; Kansas City Star Co., Kansas City; WOW, Inc., Omaha; W. Elbert Lee, Houston, and Times-Picayune Publishing Co., New Orleans.

New Elysee Premiere Tuesday

Society, diplomatic and theatrical personalities will attend the formal invitational opening of the new Elysee Theatre on 58th St., here, when the Siritzky International French film, "Fanny," written and produced by Marcel Pagnol, is shown for the first time on Tuesday evening.

Heading the diplomatic list will be Ambassador and Mme. Henri Bonnet, Consul General Ludovic Chancel and Ambassador to the United Nations Alexandre Parodi.

Testimonial for Schanberger

BALTIMORE, Feb. 5.—A testimonial dinner for Fred C. Schanberger of the executive staff of Keith's Theatre, will be given at the Variety Club, Tent, No. 10, on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the clubrooms. Schanberger is the retiring chief barker and is being succeeded by O. D. Nick Weems.

Fred Pressburger to WATV

Fred Pressburger, Hollywood film executive for the past seven years, has joined the staff of WATV, Newark, as producer-director, producing "live" television programs. Pressburger's last Hollywood post was at Universal, where he was associated with Zoltan Korda in production.

Montez Sues Charles Rogers

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Maria Montez has filed a Superior Court suit against Charles R. Rogers, asking $40,000 for alleged breach of a contract said to have been entered into in December, 1946.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK · Ann TODD · Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN · Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DANA ANDREWS · MERLE OBERON · ETHEL BARRYMORE
in A JOHN CROMWELL PRODUCTION
'NIGHT SONG'
with HOAGY CARMICHAEL

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

BURT LANCASTER
LIZABETH SCOTT
in HAL WALLIS' production
'I WALK ALONE'
A Paramount Picture
In Person
ANDY RUSSELL
HELEN FORREST
DICK HESSION · MACK & DESMOND
and his Entire Added Attraction
JERRY WALD AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT · LORETTA YOUNG · DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

JEANNE CRAIN · DAN DAILEY
"YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE
LOUIS ARMSTRONG · FRED ROBBINS
JACK TEAGARDEN · EARL HINES
Extra! ROBERT LAMOURET
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR 7th Ave. & 47th St.
20th CENTURY-FOX

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Single Censorship Near in Australia

By FRANK O'CONNELL

SYDNEY, Feb. 1 (By Airmail).—With the announcement by the New South Wales Chief Secretary Jack Baddeley, that censorship-of-films legislation, bringing NSW into line with other States, will shortly be introduced, almost the last step in a nation-wide move to unify censorship has been taken. The bill has been prepared and will be introduced into Parliament soon.

Idea of all the legislation is to make censorship of films a federal concern in all departments. Powers now in the hands of various state secretaries will be transferred to one central authority.

The Commonwealth chief censor's powers will be: Censorship of all films, both imported and locally produced; censorship of film advertising material; power to force exhibitors to screen only films suitable for children at children's matinees. Under the new laws only films suitable for general exhibition may be screened before 5:30 P.M. on Saturdays, public holidays or at matinees during school holidays. This clause carries a proviso whereby the censor may exempt any theatre from its requirements which does not cater to children.

Similar legislation already has been passed in Tasmania, Queensland and West Australia. Amendments to the existing Victoria legislation are before the state legislature and would have been passed by now if recent elections had not upset the government. In South Australia the government claims it can do by regulation what other states are now doing by legislation.

Scully to Open U-I Chicago Meet Sunday

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 5.—William A. Scully, Universal-International vice-president and sales manager; John Joseph, director of advertising-publicity; E. T. Gomersall, assistant to Scully, and C. J. Feldman, Western division manager, will leave San Francisco tomorrow for Chicago to open U-I's Midwestern sales meeting there on Sunday.

A. J. O'Keefe, U-I assistant general sales manager, and Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director, have already arrived in Chicago from St. Louis where they participated in a U-I sales meet there.

MPAA Capital Talk

(*Continued from page* 1)

cussed, it was understood, was what effect the recent devaluation of the franc would have on the blocked accounts and remittance picture.

After these talks, the two paid a "get-acquainted" visit to R. Norton Henry, the Department's new motion picture adviser.

An MPAA official said Mayer and McCarthy would likely remain here to see other officials tomorrow and to huddle with MPAA president Eric Johnston and London representative Fay Allport over the weekend.

Fire Razes N. C. House

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., Feb. 5.—Fire has destroyed the Hollywood Theatre here.

Independents Facing Restrictions in Holland

MPEA Reich 'Take' Passes $500,000

By H. ZU LOEWENSTEIN

BERLIN, Feb. 1. (By Airmail).—Returns from American pictures imported into Germany by the Motion Picture Export Association have passed 5,000,000 marks (nominally $500,000). Despite repeated efforts to obtain the release of this money, however, the funds are still blocked by American Military Government authorities.

Col. Nils C. Nilsen, in charge of Film Control, has pointed out in reply to MPEA that the American industry has gained the advantage of being firmly entrenched in the German market. He declared further that two suggestions had been submitted to American producers to enable them to make use of part of the German Reichsmark returns: using the funds to pay for the dubbing of American pictures in German for export to other German-speaking audiences; using the accounts to produce American pictures in Germany, as has already been done in several instances.

In American as well as German circles here the feeling prevails that American pictures are playing an essential role within the general program of the Marshall Plan. Withdrawing American pictures would throw the German theatres wide open to pictures tinged with totalitarian propaganda, it is believed.

The British-occupied part of Bizonia will be open to American features by the end of February.

Mexican Industry In Maze of New Laws

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 5.—The entire Mexican film industry, including the 12 American distributing companies, as well as most business in this country, are now affected by a fresh crop of new laws, featuring one that was announced as a new method of applying taxes, but which is seriously confusing.

The trade complains that the new laws are so ambiguously worded and have such contradictory clauses that it is impossible to operate with them.

Film-men say their lawyers and even government officials who were asked, cannot clarify the laws. Industry executives say they must pause because the new laws stipulate stiff penalties for violation—heavier fines and prison terms. The trade expects that enforcement will be ordered suspended to allow for their rewriting and an extraordinary session of the legislature will be called to consider them.

Venice Exhibit Aug. 11-26

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5. — The ninth international cinematographic exhibition will take place in Venice from Aug. 11 to 26, 1948, according to the Commerce Department. The exhibition, which will be held in the Exposition Theatre and in the garden on the Lido, will be presided over by Dr. Vincenzo Calvino, head of the Central Office for Cinematography.

A stay in allocations for the purchase of new films and the payment of guarantees has been enforced by the Dutch Bioscoop Bond and will stay in effect for six weeks, and current discussions may result in limitations on the import of independent product for 1948, Arnold Childhouse, managing director of the Motion Picture Export Association in Holland, said here.

The temporary ban does not affect the operations of MPEA, which represents major companies in that country. However, the Dutch quota year ended in August and discussions now are in progress between the Dutch Government and the Bioscoop Bond with a view to "to correct conditions which prejudice distribution of U. S. films," Childhouse said.

This may mean an upward revision of playing time now allocated to MPEA product. Currently each Dutch theatre can play no more than 32 weeks of American films during any one year. Officially, the U. S. companies take the stand that in a country like Holland, without any domestic production, there should be no limitation on the flow of pictures. MPEA has voluntarily limited itself to 132 feature films a year for importation to Holland. Playing time restrictions were applied to keep American films within the dollar budget allocated to them by the Bond. Last year this amounted to $1,805,000—about 60 per cent of the total funds available for motion pictures—and the Americans expect this remittance level to be kept.

New Italian Tax to Aid the Unemployed

ROME, Jan. 29 (By Airmail). — An additional duty of five lira is expected to be added soon to Italian admission fees, to remain in effect until March 31. The duty will be contributed to the National Fund for Aid to Unemployed Workers.

Uphold 20th-Fox in Dispute with SPG

New York State Supreme Court Justice Henry C. Greenberg here yesterday adhered to his original decision in which he granted 20th Century-Fox its motion to preclude arbitration proceedings by the Screen Publicists Guild. The original decision held that the company could discharge for economic reasons. In the decision yesterday, following a reargument of the case, Justice Greenberg amended in part his original decision by stating that if remaining employes were overloaded with work as a result of the firings, the case could go to arbitration.

The dispute grew out of the discharge of nine persons by the company last August.

Exchange Wages

(*Continued from page* 1)

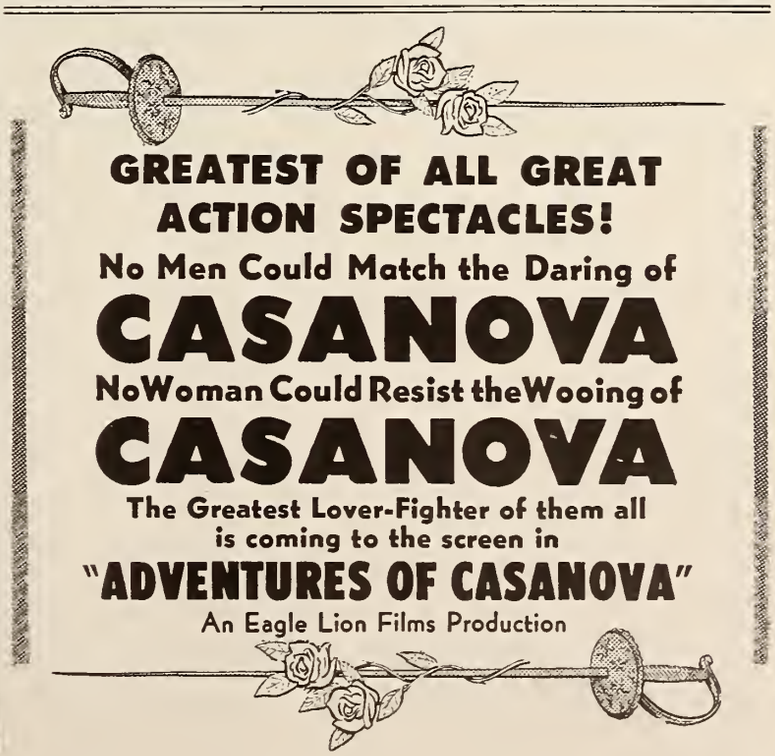
Stone disclosed last night, but said he was pledged not to reveal the union's proposal and the companies' counter-proposal. Stone's function is merely to endeavor to bring about a "meeting of the minds." He is not empowered to make a ruling.

Representing the companies at yesterday's meeting were: C. J. (Pat) Scollard, Paramount; Harry Buckley, United Artists; Bernard Goodman, Warners; Clarence Hill, 20th Century-Fox; Henry Kaufman, Columbia; Thomas Murray, Universal; Charles O'Brien, Loew's; A. E. Schiller, Republic; A. A. Schubart, RKO Radio. "IA's" negotiators are Thomas J. Shea, Joseph D. Basson and Louise Wright.

The negotiations are now in their third month.

Withdraws 'Burma' Film

"Objective Burma" has been withdrawn from circulation in Malaya by Warner Brothers, the company reported here yesterday. Withdrawal was said to be in deference to authorities there, who were of the opinion that the impression given by the film that the Americans won the war in Burma would not be helpful to British prestige among Chinese audiences.



Col. Replies

(*Continued from page* 1)

stamp block-booking as an illegal practice, the Government takes refuge in attempting to classify block-booking with franchise agreements, knowing, of course, that appellants are not questioning the decree with respect to franchise agreements."

Upholds Advance-selling

Contending that "the Government has not pointed out any proof in this record which would justify the District Court in holding block-booking illegal," the brief maintained that Columbia possesses "a perfect right to sell a season's product in advance without showing the pictures," adding that "the Government assumes that this is a conditioning of product as well as a serious abuse of copyright license privilege, and keeps on distorting appellants' claim."

Disclaiming that it had ever entered into long-term franchise agreements, the brief said that "it (Columbia) had a small number of four-year agreements, but the great majority of its franchise agreements were for two or three years."

As proof that it "gave franchises more liberally to independents than it did to affiliates," the company cited a list of Columbia franchises from 1937 to date which showed that in a 10-year period the firm had granted franchises to 468 independents as against 46 affiliates.

Duration Held a Factor

"It is manifest," said the brief, "that the District Court primarily objected to franchises because they were for too long a period—for more than one season—and that it objected to all the pictures released by a given distributor for that period because that tied up all of the distributor's pictures for a long time—practically took them off the market for three or four or five years. From the limited holding the Government seeks to make the deduction that the distributor could not sell all of its pictures for a limited period of one season. The District Court did not so find. Its reason for holding block-booking illegal was based upon the tying-in or conditioning of pictures. . . ."

The brief, presented by Louis Frohlich, of Schwartz and Frohlich, concluded that restraint "manifestly" was not due to the number of pictures involved, but to "the time element—the keeping of pictures, whether one or all, off the market for an unreasonable period."

Paul T. Sheridan, 46

Funeral services will be held at Ascention Church here today for Paul T. (Pete) Sheridan, 46, Western Electric motion picture sound pioneer who died at his New York home on Tuesday following a long illness. Sheridan had been associated with Western Electric in several executive capacities during many of his 30 years with the company. Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Mary Sheridan, and a daughter, Mary Frances. Interment will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Westchester.

New NY Screening Room

New cutting, screening and re-recording facilities for New York producers have become available with Emil Velazco, Inc., taking over space at 723 Seventh Avenue formerly occupied by MGM-International.

Amici Briefs

(*Continued from page* 1)

further that "the Government wholly failed to prove this charge."

In regard to the "constitutional question" brought up in the briefs submitted by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, the brief declared the question to be "quite irrelevant."

Hits 'Ringing Phrases'

"While we do not wish to yield to *amici curiae* in their great regard for the command of the First Amendment," the brief concluded, "we venture to suggest that the court would have been better served if their briefs had contained more references to the record and fewer references to the ringing phrases in which that great charter of freedom has been preserved."

The *amici curiae* are W. C. Allred, et al, American Theatres Association, Conference of Independent Exhibitor Associations, Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, SIMPP and ACLU.

D of J May Get Last Word; It Files Another Brief

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The prohibitions in the lower court decree are, except for the competitive bidding provision, the kind "traditionally used to prevent similar Sherman Act violation," the Government declared today in a reply brief filed with the Supreme Court in the industry anti-trust suit.

The brief stated that the prohibition against theatre expansion was "a less drastic provision" than the major defendants' violations warranted and that the prohibitions against block-booking, franchises and master agreements were "no broader than required to terminate the violations found."

The brief further declared that by the defendants' failure to assign error to many of the findings and conclusions it must be taken as established in their appeals that "each of them has violated the Sherman Act, as a distributor." The Government stated that the use of license restrictions intended to suppress admission price competition was "substantially disputed," as was the use of such restrictions by the distributor defendants in a "discriminatory manner."

Intervenors 'in Error'

The brief outlines the Government's objection to the intervenors' becoming parties in litigating the final judgment, stating that "they fail to meet the requirements for the intervention of right." It calls the intervenors "actively in error" for saying that the Government does not actively oppose the competitive bidding system. "The Government has assigned error to it," the brief states, "and argues in its main brief that the system is so inadequate as to amount to an abuse of discretion."

Intervenors named in the brief are the American Theatres Association and W. C. Allred, et al.

Davis, Byrnes

(*Continued from page* 1)

pleadings and is permitted three hours of the court's time. A part of it probably will be reserved for rebuttal after the defense has been heard.

Defendants have been allowed five hours, equivalent to 37½ minutes each. However, some may relinquish a part of their time and contribute it to anchor-man Byrnes.

Exhibitor organizations seeking to intervene have been allowed a total of one and one-half hours. Of this time, Thurman Arnold, counsel for American Theatres Association, will have 45 minutes. Col. Robert Barton and John G. Jackson, counsel for the Confederacy of Southern Associations, will have the other 45 minutes, either all for one of them or divided between them, as they elect.

The court will convene, as usual, at noon on Monday, which is a decision day. Approximately the first hour of the session probably will be consumed by the reading of decisions in cases heard earlier. The Government is expected to open the appeals in the industry case around 1 P.M. The court adjourns daily at 2 P.M. for luncheon and reconvenes at 2:30, remaining in session until 4:30 daily.

Thus the time schedule for the appeals in the industry case will be approximately three hours on Monday, most of which will be utilized by the Government; four hours on Tuesday, all of which will go to company defendants, and approximately two and one-half hours on Wednesday, which will be used for the defendants' closing, possible Government rebuttal and one and one-half hours for intervenor.

Actually, ATA, in conjunction with Southern California Theatre Owners Association, and the CSA will be arguing appeals from the New York statutory court's denial of their petitions to intervene in the case.

Rules in Favor of 16mm. Tavern Shows

Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey has met with a setback in its campaign to combat exhibitions of 16mm. pictures in the state's restaurants and taverns with receipt of word from Washington yesterday that the corporation counsel of the U. S. Alcohol Beverage Control Board has ruled that 16mm. projectors may be installed and films shown in those establishments. The counsel made his ruling following a query from Film Center, Inc., here, which distributes 16mm. films to restaurants and taverns.

When Jersey Allied president Edward Lachman informed the New Jersey State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board recently that exhibition of 16mm. pictures was spreading rapidly in New Jersey restaurants and taverns, the board informed him, Lachman said, that it looked upon such showings with disfavor.

Film Post Test

(*Continued from page* 1)

may be experienced in obtaining expert, impartial advice in framing questions, because of the unusual nature of the work.

The examination is interdepartmental promotion, open to college graduates, with at least one year state service, in salary classification of $4,200 per year minimum, with specific administrative state experience. The applicant cannot have been associated with the film industry. Starting salary for the post is $5,200, with increments of $300 every five years.

The post has been vacant since Irwin Esmond resigned in 1945. Dr. Ward T. Bowen has been acting director.

Studio Employment Drops to 79 Per Cent

Hollywood, Feb. 5.—Production employment in December slumped to 79.6 per cent from November's 86 on the index maintained by the California Department of Labor relations. The figure one year ago was 109.2.

Average weekly earnings in December, however, rose to $108.32 from November's $104.74 and the $98.98 of one year ago.

Production Static; 26 Films in Work

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5. — Production continues on an even keel, with 26 pictures before cameras, the index remaining the same as last week. Six pictures were started and the same number were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "Wild Fury," Columbia; "The Three Musketeers," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; "I Wouldn't Be in Your Shoes," Monogram; "For Fear of Little Men," 20th Century-Fox; "The Saxon Charm," Universal-International; "One Sunday Afternoon," Warners.

Shooting finished on "The Spiritualist," Eagle-Lion; "Money Madness" (Neufeld), Film Classics; "A Date with Judy," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; "Kilroy on Deck," Monogram; "The Gallant Legion," Republic; "Mr. Joseph Young of Africa" (Arko), RKO Radio.

N. J. Tax Fight

(*Continued from page* 1)

every other community in the state to follow.

The city's proposal, a Federation spokesman said here yesterday, calls for imposition of a two- to six-cent theatre seat tax with the price of admission to control the amount of tax. Six cents would apply to first-runs and other theatres charging top prices.

Newark and other heavily populated New Jersey cities are not among those which were empowered by the state legislature last year to levy a three per cent admission tax. When the enabling act was proposed the Federation was organized to fight its passage, and succeeded in having it limited to only fourth-class cities, such as Atlantic City. Newark's present attempt to impose an admission tax is believed by the Federation to be illegal under the state constitution, although it is feared there may be "loop-holes" in the law which would permit the city council to levy the tax.

Federation president George Gold will preside at today's meeting.

N. J. Allied Meets Monday On Ascap, 16mm Problems

Ascap music license rate increases and threatening 16mm. competition will highlight discussions at a general membership meeting of Allied of New Jersey on Monday at the Stacy-Trent Hotel, Trenton. Jersey Allied president Edward Lachman will be chairman.

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 27 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1948 TEN CENTS

ASCAP SLASHES RATE DEMANDS

Cuts 300% Increase Plan to Top of 25%; No Fee Boosts for Some

Executing a complete about-face from the position it assumed last summer in arbitrarily asking theatre music tax increases up to 300 per cent, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers agreed on Friday to a new rate schedule which provides for no increase in rates for theatres up to 500 seats and for a maximum increase of five cents per seat for theatres of over 1,599 seats.

The agreement is for a 10-year period and is designed to become effective on March 15, except where current contracts of longer duration are in existence.

Ascap permitted Theatre Owners of America, which has been negotiating with the Society for the past five months, to announce the new rate schedule. While the schedule is a direct result of those negotiations, it is known that Ascap's retreat was equally influenced by a uniformly aroused exhibition attitude following disclosure of the 300 per cent increase proposals last summer. Ascap, in consequence, had been threatened with legislation and litigation of many varieties and on many fronts since, some of which already has been instituted and is pending.

While theatres up to 500 seats will continue to pay Ascap 10 cents per seat under the new proposal, theatres

(*Continued on page 4*)

Allied Will Study Ascap Compromise

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Allied States chairman and general counsel Abram F. Myers, when apprised of the Ascap-TOA agreement, said he wanted to withhold comment until he had a chance to study full details of the accord and to contact some of Allied's key members.

"I wouldn't want to prejudice any future Allied stand by popping off prematurely," Myers said. "But that certainly is a far cry from what Ascap was asking, isn't it?"

Myers said if the Allied members he contacted are divided on the subject, he would present the question to the Allied board when it meets here on Feb. 16-18.

Allied sources had indicated earlier

(*Continued on page 4*)

INDUSTRY BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Eyes of Industry Are on Them



Photo by Harris-Ewing

THE United States Supreme Court, above, which today will begin hearing appeals in the 10-year old Government-industry anti-trust litigation known as U. S. vs. Paramount, et al, and which, later, will write the final chapter concluding the long court contest.

Front row, left to right: Associate Justices Felix Frankfurter, Hugo L. Black, Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, Associate Justices Stanley F. Reed and William C. Douglas. Back row, left to right: Associate Justices Wiley Rutledge, Frank Murphy, Robert H. Jackson and Harold H. Burton.

Justice Jackson may not participate in the hearings as he was U. S. Solicitor General and Attorney General during the early stages of the Government action. He did not participate in the Court's action taking the appeal. It is possible, too, that Justice Murphy, also Attorney General during an early phase of the case, may disqualify himself.

Ten-Year Litigation In Final Phase; Industry's Basic Practices at Stake

By SHERWIN KANE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. — The final chapter of the Government's decade of litigation against the industry will be prepared here during the next three days as the U. S. Supreme Court listens to appeals by Government and company attorneys from the decree entered by the Federal statutory court in New York in the case of *U. S. vs. Paramount, et al.*

A battery of nationally known attorneys, frequently described as "a million dollars worth of legal talent," will argue the appeals of Loew's, Paramount, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners, the five theatre-owning companies.

Their arguments will center preponderantly on the issue of affiliated theatre divorcement, as will the Government's. The New York court rejected the Government's plea for theatre divorcement in the decree handed down on Dec. 31, 1946, holding the "remedy" proposed by the Government to be "too drastic."

The New York court, instead, ordered the introduction of competitive bidding for pictures as an alternate method of relief. Opposition to that method of film selling, as well as to restrictions upon block booking, clearance, franchises and other phases of

(*Continued on page 4*)

New Theatre Music Tax Rate Schedule Offered to Exhibitors by Ascap

Here is the new schedule of seat music taxes made public here on Friday by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Theatres	*Present per-Seat Rate*	*New per-Seat Rate*	*Increase*
499 seats and under.....	10c	10c	No change
500-799 seats	10c	12½c	2½c
800-1,599 seats	15c	19c	4c
1,599 seats and upward	20c	25c	5c

Ascap reserves the right to establish special scales for places using "live" talent on a policy of continuous performances. Half of the rates listed in the above table will apply to places operating three days a week or less.

'IA' Board to Meet March 1, Pittsburgh

Semi-annual meeting of the IATSE general executive board will be held at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, beginning March 1, and continuing for a week. Richard F. Walsh, president, will preside.

Among matters expected to be handled by the board are the setting of a date for "IA's" bi-annual convention this summer, and the establishing of machinery for "IA's" participation in the American Federation of Labor's "League for Political Education." Walsh is a member of the League's administrative committee, and recently announced that he plans to set up a similar "League" within the framework of the "IA."

Personal Mention

ARTHUR LOEW, head of Loew's International, has returned to New York from the Coast.

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ARNOLD CHILDHOUSE, Motion Picture Export Association managing director in Holland, left New York at the weekend for his headquarters in Amsterdam.

•

GREGOR RABINOVITCH, Columbia director, and W. P. MONTAGUE, M-G-M film news editor, arrived here over the weekend from England on the *SS America*.

•

ADELINE FANELLI of the Paramount personnel department was married here yesterday to KURT HACKL in Our Lady of Pompei Church.

•

HARRY ROSENQUEST, Warner home office theatre department executive, will leave here tonight for Chicago and Milwaukee.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic vice-president, and division manager WALTER L. TITUS, JR., left here over the weekend on a Southern sales trip.

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GERALD MAYER, Motion Picture Association of America foreign chief, left Washington at the weekend for New York.

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H. M. RICHEY, head of M-G-M exhibitor relations, is vacationing in Miami.

•

HAROLD MIRISCH, Allied Artists vice-president, is in New York following a tour of Southern exchanges.

•

HERB COPELAN, head of Warner theatres in South America, is in town from Havana.

•

ED HINCHY, Warner playdate department head, will leave here tonight for Pittsburgh.

•

MOE KERMAN, Favorite Films president, is due here today from the Coast.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's theatre executive, left Friday for a Havana vacation.

570 Theatres Are In Memphis Area

There are 570 theatres with a total seating capacity of 268,501 in the Memphis territory, according to the Memphis theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of America is releasing today.

The 25th in a series of 31, the directory reveals that Memphis has 37 houses, largest number in any city in the area, seating 35,560. In the Memphis territory, average seating capacities range from 961 for Memphis to 334 for each of 308 theatres in 275 towns with a population of 2,500 and under.

Industry Figures In Tax Refunds

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Interstate Circuit, Inc., Dallas, received $75,375 in income tax refunds from the Federal Government in year ending June 30, 1947, according to the Internal Revenue Bureau. Other corporate tax refunds were: Cagney Productions, Inc., $32,972; Metropolitan Theatres, Los Angeles, $25,757; Balaban and Katz, $23,854; Hearst Movietone News, $16,199; Warner Brothers, $11,586, and $11,082, excess profits; RKO Radio, $11,524; Crescent Amusement, $13,984; Butterfield Theatres, $11,033; Interstate Theatres, New York, $2,415.

Largest individual recipients were Eddie Cantor and his wife, Ida, who received $53,986 and $53,448, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Fred MacMurray, $43,343 each. Joan Davis, $10,009; Adolph Zukor, $10,722; Bud Abbott, $16,333; Charles Chaplin, $13,402; Ned E. Depinet, $1,443; George Jessel, $2,083; Irene M. Selznick, $3,651; Arnold Pressburger, $4,856; Emmet and Genevieve Lavery, $2,395 each, among other film firms, circuits and individuals.

Term Pact Illegal In Percentage Suit

Maintaining that film contracts which they made with Loew's were illegal because of stipulations of minimum admission prices and fixed scales of runs and clearances, New York Metropolitan circuit partners Jesse L. Stern and Abram H. Levy have asked for dismissal of the company's percentage action in answers filed in U.S. District Court here. Loew's filed several weeks ago.

The Stern-Levy answers also maintain that the maior companies' tie-up with Confidential Reports, Inc., is illegal, and that Loew's owns theatres which are in direct competition with the defendant's theatres.

Audience Survey On Way to Studio Heads

Eliott Odell of Fawcett Publications and Herb Drake of Macfadden left here at the weekend for Hollywood where they will present industry leaders with the results of a two-year survey by the Association of Screen Magazine Publishers, Inc. They will be followed shortly by Harold Dawson of Dell Publications, who will be on hand in time for the scheduled presentations.

The survey reveals facts and figures concerning film-going and theatre-reading habits in the U.S., the Association states.

Ontario Mayors Ask Revived Ticket Tax

TORONTO, Feb. 8.—Ontario Federation of Mayors has called for restoration of the provincial amusement tax with cities and towns to share the revenue, in a recommendation to the Ontario Cabinet in Friday.

Protestants Will Advise on Films

Hollywood, Feb. 8.— Establishment of a branch of the Protestant Film Commission here, long under discussion, moved toward accomplishment as PFC president Rome A. Betts conferred with church and industry leaders. The project was last in the news a year ago when "Duel in the Sun" was under fire, but has been dormant since.

Tentative plans contemplate offering organized Protestantism's cooperation and advice on films in script or finished form, on a voluntary basis.

Name Max Roth FC Midwest Manager

Max Roth, recently Eagle-Lion Midwest district manager, has been apointed Film Classics Midwest division manager by B. G. Kranze, distribution vice-president. Roth will make his headquarters in Chicago where he variously served as sales manager for Paramount, Columbia and Republic.

Roth's FC area takes in Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Omaha and St. Louis.

'Exploit Values', NT Executives Are Told

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—Need for augmented exploitation effort was underscored by 20th Century-Fox production executive Joseph M. Schenck at the closing meeting of National Theatres division presidents on Friday. He called for cooperation by exhibitors with studio economies by concentrating on selling story values.

The National Theatres executives expressed agreement at the end of the four-day session that present admission prices must be retained and that vigorous exploitation procedures should be applied.

Bagnall in Ottawa; To See Howe, Others

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—United Artists vice-president George Bagnall left here yesterday by plane for Ottawa where he will meet with Canadian Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe and other officials Tuesday on several proposals by the Canadian government, including production in that country by American companies.

AAF Members Organize

First organizational meeting of the newly-formed show business squadron of the Air Force Association, formed for past and present civilian members of the AAF who are identified in any way with the entertainment business, will be held at the Wings Club, Hotel Biltmore, New York, on Thursday, Feb. 19.

Newsreel Parade

EX-KING LEOPOLD in Cuba and the Gandhi funeral rites are among the newsreel highlights. Other items include Joe Louis in action, a ski meet and other human interest pieces. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 11—U. S. and Canada join in mercy flight to frozen North. Ex-King Leopold of Belgium in Cuba. Open new French dam. Army Arctic expedition. Badgett "quads" birthday. **Look Magazine** award to Darryl Zanuck and Gregory Peck. Speed skating. Ice-boat regatta. School for umpires in Florida.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 245—Washington spotlight on Communism. Paratrooper maneuvers. Magic brain aids science. Ex-King Leopold in Cuba. School for umpires.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 48—Hearings on legislation to curb "Reds." Gandhi funeral pyre. Skiing.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 115—U. S. troops in winter exercises. Labrador mercy mission. French open huge dam. Badgett "quads" celebrate ninth birthday. Ski meet. Irish setter's 14 pups take a bow. Ice-boat regatta.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 50—Air power conquers winter. Umpire school. Open war on heart disease. Joe Louis in exhibition bout. Skiing. Great Americans: Abe Lincoln.

MPEA Chiefs Weigh Action on Trends

Problems and policies affecting the future course of Motion Picture Export Association operations were discussed at a special meeting of member company international heads on Friday at MPEA headquarters here. Irving Maas, MPEA vice-president and general manager, presented an analysis of the territories within the MPEA orbit, reviewed the results of the association's first full year of activity and presented observations on his recent global trip which were not covered in last week's MPEA board meeting.

A subsequent "round-table" discussion focussed on the probable trend of MPEA operations and was said to have paved the way for administrative action in 1948.

Company foreign executives present at the meeting were Norton V. Ritchey, Jack Segal, Arnold Picker, Arthur M. Loew, George Weltner, J. William Piper, Phil Reisman, Emanuel Silverstone, Walter Gould, Joseph H. Seidelman, Wolfe Cohen and John J. Glynn. Representing MPEA, in addition to Maas, were Arnold C. Childhouse, Joe C. Goltz and Herbert J. Erlanger.

Nu-Screen Corp. Has an Anniversary

Nu-Screen Corp., headed by Herman Gluckman, is observing its first anniversary, having made its initial screen installation in the Park Avenue Theatre, New York, in Feb., 1947, following with installations in the Winter Garden, Astor and Lane, here.

The company claims its screen creates a new method of projection which improves vision from front and side seat, the latter with angles of from five to 28 degrees. Stanley Hand is sales manager of Nu-Screen.

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My Girl Tisa

MY GIRL TISA my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa.

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My girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa my girl Tisa.

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My

High Court

(*Continued from page* 1)

the New York decree, will command most of the attention of counsel for Columbia, United Artists and Universal, the non-theatre owning defendants.

Top Gov't Legal Talent

In addition to the "million-dollar" defense legal battery, the Government, too, is expected to have its foremost counsel in court. U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark will be on hand if his schedule permits, and so will John F. Sonnett, assistant attorney general in charge of the anti-trust division, and Robert Wright, assistant to the Attorney General, who has been in charge of the motion picture case for many years.

James F. Byrnes, a former Justice of the Supreme Court and former Secretary of State under the late President Roosevelt, will appear as counsel for 20th Century-Fox and is expected to be the defense "anchor man," last of the defense attorneys to address the court.

John W. Davis, counsel for Loew's, will open for the defense, followed in order by Whitney North Seymour, Paramount; General William J. Donovan, wartime head of the U. S. Office of Strategic Services, for RKO; Louis D. Frohlich, Columbia; Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal; Edward C. Raftery, United Artists, and Joseph M. Proskauer, Warners.

Appeal arguments will occupy about three hours tomorrow; four on Tuesday and will be concluded in two to two and one-half hours on Wednesday. The court sits for four hours daily and a total of nine and one-half hours has been allotted for the *U. S. vs. Paramount, et al.* appeals. A total of three hours has been allocated to the Government, five to the eight defendants, and one and one-half hours to intervenors, the American Theatres Association in conjunction with Southern California Theatre Owners Association, and the Confederacy of Southern Associations.

Seven Justices May Decide

It is believed likely that Associate Justices Robert H. Jackson and Frank Murphy, Attorney Generals during the span of the suit, may disqualify themselves, leaving seven Justices to hear and decide the case.

Justice Murphy is classed with the so-called liberal bloc of the court, along with Justices Hugo L. Black and potential Vice-Presidential candidate William O. Douglas. Justice Wiley Rutledge usually votes with the liberal New Deal wing.

Justice Jackson is ranked with the conservative element of the court, which includes Justice Felix Frankfurter.

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and Associate Justices Stanley Reed and Harold Burton are usually considered the "swing-men," so-called because they are found as often on the liberal side as the conservative side. Burton is a possible exception, often veering to the conservative.

It is believed highly likely here that the court may hand down its decision in the case in late May or before it adjourns for the summer in June, despite the fact that it is faced with a crowded calendar and is notoriously slow in deciding complex cases such as the industry action. However, there is nothing to prevent the case from going over to the next term, which starts in October, if the court's schedule prevents a decision in the spring.

At stake in the case, and of obviously potentially far-reaching effects are basic methods of buying and selling film and of exhibiting it, as well as the continued ownership and operation of theatres by producers or distributors. Many in the industry contend that the latter, in turn, reaches into the fundamentals of film production. To be tested are many traditional business practices which evolved during the industry's years of growth.

The appeal briefs of the theatre-owning defendants indicate that their arguments will not be confined to defense of their theatre ownership but also will include vigorous championing of their right to expand theatre operations to meet new business opportunities as they may arise.

The Government instituted its suit in New York Federal District Court in the summer of 1938. Trial was begun early in 1940 and was discontinued after a few days and negotiation of a consent decree was begun. The decree was entered in November, 1940, and operated for three years. An amended consent decree was discussed intermittently thereafter but the Government's uncompromising attitude on affiliated theatre divorcement prevented a new agreement.

Trial of the case was resumed in October, 1945, before a three-judge statutory court in New York, which handed down its decision in June, 1946. The decree was entered the following Dec. 31, but was stayed pending the appeals which the Supreme Court will hear beginning tomorrow.

CECILLE MUSIC CO., INC.
offers
a complete hit show musical score
or the needed musical "dynamite"
for your score.
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1674 Broadway Circle 5-5773

Review

"Jiggs and Maggie in Society"

(*Monogram*)

Hollywood, Feb. 8

PRODUCER Barney Gerard's second picture based on the George MacManus comic strip again presents Joe Yule and Renie Riano in their admirably performed portrayals of Jiggs and Maggie, and adds for exploitation strength the presence of Dale Carnegie, Arthur Murray and Sheilah Graham, portraying themselves. This addition in the interests of marquee billing creates quite a bit of confusion along the story line at midpoint in the picture, which straightens out again later on, but box-office gains may compensate for the letdown. By and large, the second picture promises to pay off as well as the first, and possibly somewhat better because of the first one's having established a following.

The story, an original by Gerard and Director Eddie Cline, loosely concerns Maggie's experiences with a confidence man who undertakes to separate her from large amounts of money by posing as capable of engineering her acceptance into swank society.

Running time, 67 minutes. General classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

SIMPP Meets Today On Anti-trust Case

Hollywood, Feb. 8. — All phases of distribution affecting independent producers, together with the implications of the industry anti-trust case will be canvassed at a special meeting called for tomorrow afternoon by the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers. All United Artists producers, whether affiliated with SIMPP or not, will attend, and Gradwell Sears, UA president, and Arthur W. Kelly, executive vice-president, will be guest speakers. They will report on the Chicago situation.

Universal Denies Interfering With Theatre Admission Prices

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Universal pleaded not guilty of interfering with theatre admission prices in a brief filed with the U. S. Supreme Court in reply to the Government's answer in the film anti-trust suit.

The company said that all it did "was to require a covenant from each of its licensees not to reduce admission prices during the run of the pictures licensed to it by Universal." According to the brief, the purpose of this was solely to protect the company's "reward under its copyrights" and not to fix the admission price of the licensed theatre in order to protect theatre-operating profits.

Allied-Ascap

(*Continued from page* 1)

that any agreement resulting from the TOA-Ascap negotiations might be contested on the grounds of conspiracy. However, it is known that TOA officials contacted the Department of Justice prior to the closing of the negotiations and reportedly received a green light after describing the exhibitor-Ascap situation.

Allied's principal concern is believed to have been over the possibility of its own members being required to accept rates which might not be acceptable to them in consequence of a provision in the consent decree under which Ascap operates. The provision prohibits the Society from discriminating in the matter of rates among licensees in the same classification. Therefore, if any appreciable number of TOA members accept the compromise, as they are sure to do, Ascap could enforce the rates upon all exhibitors, arguing that its Federal consent decree compels it to do so.

Ascap Slashes

(*Continued from page* 1)

seating from 500 to 799 would be boosted to 12½ cents per seat, per year. Theatres seating 800 to 1,599 and now paying 15 cents would pay 19 cents and those over 1,600 seats, now paying 20 cents, would be increased to 25 cents.

The rates would be cut in half for theatres operating three or less days weekly. Ascap reserves the right to establish special rates for theatres having a continuous live talent policy.

The formula completely discards Ascap's original proposal for tying the music tax to admission scales and collecting for a capacity house at highest prevailing night, adult admission charge.

Spoke for '11,000 Houses'

TOA claimed it negotiated on behalf of some 10,000 member theatres and some 1,000 non-member theatres.

The announcement said that "the period of 10 years was decided upon to quiet questionings as to Ascap's right or intention of seeking new rate increases within the period."

Herman Greenberg headed Ascap's negotiating group. Representing the TOA in the negotiations was a committee comprised of Ted Gamble, Robert Coyne, Elmer C. Rhoden, Roy Cooper, S. H. Fabian, Dan Michalove, Leonard Goldenson, Fred Wehrenberg, C. E. Cook, Sol Hyman, Maury Miller, Paul Williams, R. R. Livingston, Myron Blank, A. Julian Brylawski, Herman Levy and Ralph Branton.

According to Greenberg, the rates have been approved by the Ascap board "in substance."

It is understood that during negotiations the Department of Justice was sounded out regarding certain aspects of the deal, a favorable reaction reportedly having been obtained.

Gamble issued a statement lauding Ascap's attitude in revising its proposed rates as "realistic and fair in the light of decreasing theatre box-offices." He added that theatre men represented by TOA, recognizing Ascap as a necessary service agency, were willing to recognize also the increase in cost of all commodities as justifying some revision in rates.

See Members' Acceptance

"This cannot be said to be a 'deal' in the legal sense, inasmuch as the TOA is without authority to bind its members legally to any contract," the TOA president explained. "The rates will be recommended to TOA membership as reasonable and the overwhelming bulk of our members, I am confident, will accept them.

"The exemption of the small theatres from any raise in rates should silence any who might feel that TOA represents 'big interests'."

Greenberg referred to the new rates as a formula which he thought would be "acceptable to all exhibitors."

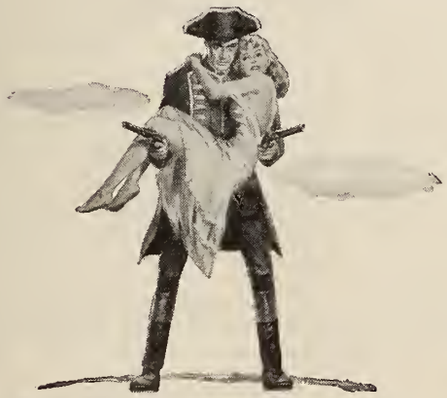
'U' Heads Deny Charges

A general denial of allegations and a request for dismissal of stockholder Stephen Truncale's suit charging improper stock transactions was filed in U.S. District Court here at the weekend by Universal and five of its directors. Plaintiffs claim that no profits realized by the directors in stock tradings were accountable to the company, as charged.

PARAMOUNT

Announces the Climax of a Great Picture's Pre-selling Career ...its April release

At Regular Prices



UNCONQUERED

Following Paramount's originally announced plan of distribution, Cecil B. DeMille's "UNCONQUERED" will be made available for regular-price engagements in April, 1948.

These are the engagements toward which months of planning, promotion, and test exhibition all have pointed.

The less than 300 advanced-admission runs played so far have been but pre-selling preparation for this nationwide release, which will involve fifty times as many bookings as the advanced-price runs.

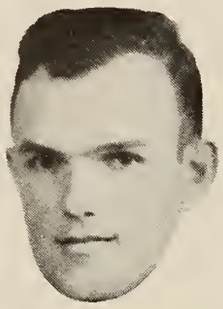
This pre-selling insures that "UNCONQUERED" will do record business at regular prices, just as it broke records in scores of theatres at advanced admissions, including the biggest opening in history at the Rivoli, New York; an all-time record gross in Baltimore; and a first 5 days in Chicago bigger than the theatre's biggest previous week.

Also pointed primarily toward this April release date were the country-blanketing full-color spreads in all leading magazines, the sensational world premiere in Pittsburgh, the subsequent twelve-city personal tour by Cecil B. DeMille, and all the lavish local promotion that has helped establish the renown of "UNCONQUERED" in every key territory.

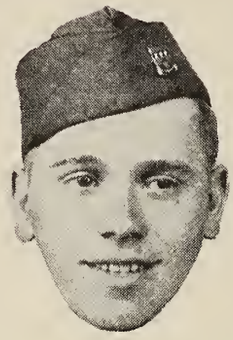


As a result, every exhibitor of Paramount pictures can now plan his regular-price engagement of this picture with full confidence that it is thoroughly and favorably known to his entire market, and with proof-backed assurance that he is playing one of the great money-making attractions of the modern screen.

REMEMBER?



ARTHUR J. KING
Protestant
Killed April 7, 1945 in Germany



WM. R. SORENSEN
Catholic
Killed Sept. 14, 1944 in France



JERRY NEUMANN
Jew
Killed April 1945 in France

They fought together for a better world. *You* can remember what they died for by giving what you can to American Brotherhood Week. Your money will help the work of spreading friendship and tolerance throughout the nation!

GIVE NOW

Contributions may be made directly through your office or by mail to David Weinstock, Nat'l Campaign Chairman, 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.

SPONSORED BY THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY IN BEHALF OF THE 1948 CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS FOR AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD WEEK (FEB. 22-2

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 28 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1948 TEN CENTS

US OPENS FIGHT FOR DIVORCEMENT

Enthusiastic Reaction to ASCAP Rates

Independents Especially Pleased with Slight Tilt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Exhibitor reaction to the new theatre music licensing rate increases proposed by Ascap last Friday has been overwhelmingly favorable, Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the Theatre Owners of America, said here today.

Coyne, who is in Washington as an observer at the U. S. Supreme Court hearings in the industry anti-trust suit, said many of the expressions received by the TOA have been from independent exhibitors and from non-members of the organization which negotiated the new rates with Ascap.

He said operators of theatres of less than 500 seats which will pay no music tax increase under the new schedule are particularly grateful.

Theatres of 1,600 seats which have

(*Continued on page 6*)

U-I Heads to London For Rank Parleys

Universal-International's top officials, J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman; Nate J. Blumberg, president; Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president and head of foreign sales, and Charles Prutzman, counsel, together with Robert S. Benjamin, president of the J. Arthur Rank Organization, sail for England tomorrow on the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth.*

In England they will confer with J. Arthur Rank and his associates about

(*Continued on page 6*)

US Backs Legality Of Red Probe Unit

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—U. S. Attorney William Hitz will tell the District Court tomorrow that the House Committee on Un-American Activities was constitutionally created and that the trials of 10 Hollywood witnesses cited for contempt by the committee should be held here.

This will be in answer to a motion filed 10 days ago by attorneys for the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Hughes-Odlum Deal On RKO Reported

Hollywood, Feb. 9.—Although authoritative confirmation is lacking, informed circles tonight believed an understanding for the acquisition of Floyd Odlum's interest in RKO by Howard Hughes was reached over the weekend. It has been reliably ascertained that conferences between the two have been continuing steadily during the past fortnight. Informed sources believe final terms were agreed upon yesterday.

U. S. Gets Bid For New French Accord

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—R. Horton Henry, adviser on films to the U. S. State Department, has received official word of the resolution adopted by the Press and Cinema Committee of the French National Assembly asking for re-opening of negotiations on the Blum-Byrnes accord.

The specific portion of the accord which is in question is that dealing with screen time, Henry said. Presumably the negotiations would deal with an extension of playing time now granted to French films. Under the accord, French films are given playing time amounting to one-third of each quarter.

The resolution must still be adopted by the Assembly, Henry said.

E-L Sets Employes' Cash Incentive Plan

Creation by Eagle-Lion Films of an employes' "cash bonus" incentive plan, patterned on those used by many industrial and utility organizations, was announced here yesterday by Arthur B. Krim, president of E-L.

The plan as outlined by Krim, has been adapted to the particular operating structure of the film industry from that in use by the Chesapeake and Ohio, controlled by Robert R. Young, whose Pathe Industries is sole owner of Eagle-Lion.

Under the plan, employes are invited to submit any suggestions, which in their opinion will aid the company toward achieving a more efficient operation. For all suggestions adopted, Eagle-Lion will pay a cash award, varying in amount.

"Obviously," Krim declared, "an employe who presents a practical plan

(*Continued on page 6*)

Balaban Heads UJA Campaign for 1948

Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures, will head the motion picture division of the 1948 United Jewish Appeal for $250,000,000 for overseas relief and rehabilitation, and for aid to refugees reaching the United States, it was announced here yesterday by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the UJA.



Barney Balaban

Accepting the UJA post, Balaban called on film makers and exhibitors to give their full support to the "Year of Destiny" cam-

(*Continued on page 6*)

MPAA Members' Films to Libraries

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—For the first time the motion picture industry is now making available to public libraries throughout the country films to be loaned like books to adult education groups, according to an announcement by Roger Albright, director of the Motion Picture Association of America's educational service.

Special groups of educators, Albright said, have chosen 178 films from

(*Continued on page 6*)

Distribution Study Set for SIMPP Unit

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9.—James Mulvey, Gradwell L. Sears, W. B. Levy, Budd Rogers and Milton Kramer were today appointed to membership on a committee which will study the distribution patterns which will arise from the Jackson Park decision, decline of the foreign market and developments in the Government's anti-trust case against the industry for the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Jackson Disqualifies Self; Arnold, Jackson, Barton In Bids to Intervene

By SHERWIN KANE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. — Arguments on appeals in the Government's anti-trust suit against the industry opened before the U. S. Supreme Court here today with Attorney General Tom Clark devoting one hour almost exclusively to the Government's main objective, the divorcement of affiliated theatres.

John W. Davis, attorney for Loew's, first defense counsel to address the Court, started speaking at 3:48 P. M. and had not quite completed his argument when Court was adjourned at 4:30. Davis has been allotted 55 minutes in all, and presumably will be the first to speak when the Court convenes again tomorrow morning.

In between Attorney General Clark and Davis, in consequence of a late change in the speaking order, arguments for leave to intervene in the case were made by Thurman Arnold, for American Theatres Association and Southern California Theatre Owners Association, and by John J. Jackson and Col. Robert Barton for the Confederacy of Southern Associations.

Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson, who was Attorney General during an early phase of the suit, disqualified himself but Justice Frank

(*Continued on page 7*)

MPF Charts Scope Of Its Operations

Survey of industry welfare needs to form the basis upon which policy will be determined in regard to the program and scope of the Motion Picture Foundation, has been planned by the MPF program-and-scope committee in New York, Ned Depinet and Ted Gamble, committee chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, reported here yesterday.

Sub-committees have been appointed to explore and determine the best means for conducting the survey, the committee executives said.

Those attending a weekend meeting, in addition to Depinet and Gamble, were: Leopold Friedman, Max A.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Personal Mention

E. K. O'Shea, Paramount sales executive, became a grandfather last Friday, when a son was born at Woman's Hospital, here, to E. K. O'Shea II and Mrs. O'Shea.

•

John W. Whitaker, RKO Radio vice-president; Paul Hollister, national publicity director; S. Barret McCormick, national advertising director and Terry Turner, national exploitation director, will meet in Hollywood this week.

•

Herbert V. Akerberg, Columbia Broadcasting executive, has been elected to the board of directors of Broadcast Music, succeeding Frank K. White, who was recently appointed president of Columbia Records.

•

Steve Broidy, Monogram-Allied Artists president, returned to his desk in Hollywood yesterday following a week's absence due to the death of his mother.

•

David O. Selznick and Ernest L. Scanlon, Vanguard Films executive vice-president and treasurer, left Hollywood over the weekend for New York.

•

Mitchell Rawson of M-G-M's publicity department, and William Schneider of Donahue and Coe have returned to New York from the Coast.

•

John G. Walsh has joined Eagle-Lion as salesman in Cleveland, and Joseph Rosenberg has been appointed E-L salesman in Los Angeles.

•

Marcel Gentel, RKO Radio manager in France, has been elected president of the Franco-American Distributor's Association, Paris.

•

William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, will return to New York tomorrow from a Miami vacation.

•

Bob Hope visited President Truman yesterday about the Red Cross fund-raising drive in Washington.

•

Lou Cohen, manager of Loew's Poli Theatre in Hartford, is visiting the Loew home office here.

•

Abe Platt, Paramount International theatre department executive, is in Lima, Peru, from here.

•

Bert Sanford, Altec Lansing theatrical sales manager, has returned to New York from Cleveland.

•

Jacques Kopfstein, Astor Pictures executive vice-president, is in Atlanta from New York.

•

Sir Alexander Korda is expected to leave New York tomorrow for Hollywood.

•

Irving Berlin is scheduled to return to New York tomorrow from the Coast.

News Briefs . . .

Jersey Federation Group Named To Furnish Tax-Fight Weapons

Newark, Feb. 8.—A committee of Federation of New Jersey Theatre Owners was appointed at a meeting of the organization here on Friday to collect data for use in combatting a Newark City Council proposal to levy a two- to six-cent sliding-scale admission tax which, if adopted, would set a precedent for almost every other community in the state to follow. The committee is expected to report to the Federation membership in a few weeks, and the data collected will be used by the organization to challenge the constitutionality of the tax proposal.

Ferguson Calls Fourth Meeting For Field Forces in Atlanta

Fourth in the series of meetings which William R. Ferguson, M-G-M exploitation manager, has scheduled with his field staff and sales executives, will be held at the Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Feb. 18-19. The first day's conference will center around talks with field personnel on promoting new season's product and on the second day Ferguson will confer with exhibitors, exchange personnel, newspaper and radio critics.

Attending from the field will be Rudy Berger, Southern sales manager; John S. Allen, his assistant, Dallas; Charles E. Kessnich, Atlanta sales head, and exploiteers E. B. Coleman, E. M. Austin and Tom Baldridge.

Joseph Harris Forms Group To Buy Film Centre Building

A syndicate to purchase the Film Centre Building here has been organized by Joseph Harris, chairman of the board of Realart Pictures and treasurer of both U. S. Film Export Corp. and Magnus Films. It is understood that negotiations already are under way.

Oil-Heated Theatres Closed by Northampton, Mass., Shortage

Northampton, Mass., Feb. 9.—All oil-heated theatres have been closed here on orders of Mayor Edwin L. Olander in an emergency move to conserve supplies of fuel oil. The action was taken to free all available oil for home use.

Cut Lighting in San Francisco

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—Because of a drastic reduction of power resulting from the lack of rainfall, all theatres in this area have been requested to cut down their illumination. According to Pacific Gas and Electric Co., the San Francisco territory is already three months ahead of its power allocation, with no possible hope for alleviation of the situation in sight.

Favorite in Masterpiece Deal

Moe Kerman's Favorite Films has acquired distribution of Masterpiece Productions in four territories, it was revealed by Masterpiece president Jules Weill. Territories involved are New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland.

Filmack Will Open Its Third Branch in New York on Feb. 16

Chicago, Feb. 9.—In keeping with its plan of expansion in 1948, Filmack Trailer Co., through its general sales manager, Irving Mack, announces the opening of a New York City branch on Feb. 16.

This is the second branch to be established in the last three months, the other being in Los Angeles. The organization has its main offices here.

Building Product Supply for Exhibition in German Houses

Washington, Feb. 9.—Two more German features are now in production, the U. S. Army reports, "The Man from the Other Star," in Munich, under British license, and "Seven Little Pigs," in Berlin, under U. S. license.

Six more German features produced prior to 1945 have been released for exhibition by U. S. censors, and four more American films have been synchronized with German-language tracks, "The Bells of Saint Mary's," "The Lost Weekend," "The Spiral Staircase," and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Monogram Will Reissue Three Features, 8 Westerns in 1948

Hollywood, Feb. 9.—Eleven reissues will be released by Monogram during 1948, it was announced by president Steve Broidy. The list includes "Betrayed" (formerly "When Strangers Marry"), "Rose of the Rio Grande," "Sign of the Wolf," and eight Westerns.

Girosi Will Open Branches On Coast for Superfilm

Marcelle Girosi, president of Superfilm Distributing Corp., has left here for Los Angeles and San Francisco for a two-month stay to open exchanges on the Coast for distribution of Superfilm's product and for discussion of future production in Italy.

New Head of Canadian Film And Other Import Controls

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—Max Mackenzie, deputy minister of trade and commerce, has been named head of all import controls administered by his department, including the film industry.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK · Ann TODD · Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN · Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

HUMPHREY BOGART "TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE"
WALTER HUSTON · Produced by HENRY BLANKE
IN PERSON LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
Plus BIG REVUE
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9 AM LATE FILM AT MIDNIGHT
LATE STAGE SHOW 10:30 PM B'WAY AT 47th

PAULETTE GODDARD · HENRY FONDA
JAMES STEWART · FRED MacMURRAY
BENEDICT BOGEAUS presents
"A MIRACLE CAN HAPPEN"
Released thru UNITED ARTISTS
WARNER THEATRE
B'way 51st · Opens 10:30 AM
Late Midnight Film

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

BURT LANCASTER
LIZABETH SCOTT
in HAL WALLIS' production
"I WALK ALONE"
A Paramount Picture
in Person ANDY RUSSELL · HELEN FORREST · DICK WESSON · MACK & DESMOND and the Ex-Kitty Kallen Vocalist JERRY WALD AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT · LORETTA YOUNG · DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR
B'way at 45th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DANA ANDREWS · MERLE OBERON · ETHEL BARRYMORE
in A JOHN CROMWELL PRODUCTION
'NIGHT SONG'
with HOAGY CARMICHAEL

CAPTAIN from CASTILE
TECHNICOLOR
TYRONE POWER
20th CENTURY-FOX
Doors Open 9:30 A. M.
RIVOLI
B'way at 49th St.

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Starring **ROD CAMERON** with **CATHY DOWNS • REED HADLEY • ANNE GWYNNE • BLAKE EDWARDS**

A CHAMPION PRODUCTION • Produced by JOHN C. CHAMPION and BLAKE EDWARDS • Directed by LESLEY SELANDER • Story & Screenplay by Blake Edwards and John C. Champion

N. Y. 1st-Runs Fairly Firm

Frigid temperatures and more snow, weather which is said to have reduced theatre business nationally by a reported 20 per cent, are not putting too big a dent in grosses this week, as a whole, at New York's downtown first-runs. Holdovers predominate here, and many are performing satisfactorily or better; some others are disappointing. Meanwhile, the only newcomer, "A Miracle Can Happen," got off to a good start at the Warner, with $47,000 expected for the first week.

"The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," plus Lionel Hampton's band on stage, is still doing impressively at the Strand, with $64,000 looked for in a third week. At Radio City Music Hall, "The Paradine Case," with a stage show, is heading for a solid $122,000 in a fifth week on the basis of $77,000 taken in Thursday through Sunday. Also strong is "I Walk Alone" at the Paramount where singer Andy Russell heads the stage bill; a robust $66,000 is looked for in bow in on Feb. 18.
the third week; "Road to Rio" will

$33,000 for 'Agreement'

"Gentleman's Agreement" is still doing well at the Mayfair where a 13th week is expected to bring $33,000. At the Astor, "The Bishop's Wife" continues to perform satisfactorily, with a ninth week's gross of $39,500. A $17,000 for a 14th week for "Body and Soul" at the Globe is also regarded as satisfactory. "You Were Meant for Me" with Louis Armstrong on stage at the Roxy is doing only modest business; the second week looks like $83,000, and the picture will make way for "Call Northside 777" after one more week.

At the Criterion, "T-Men" is doing only fair business, with $25,000 for a third week. Performing similarly are "Night Song," at the Palace, where a second week looks like $18,000, and "Holiday Camp," at the Park, where $7,500 is in view for a third week. "Captain from Castile" is weakening considerably in its seventh week at the Rivoli where a meagre $19,700 is seen; "To the Ends of the Earth" will follow on Thursday. The eighth week will be the final one for "The Fugitive," at the Victoria, where a seventh week is viewed as bringing in a low $10,500; "The Burning Cross" will follow on Feb. 19.

Capitol, Winter Garden 'Poor'

"If Winter Comes," at the Capitol, with Sammy Kaye's band on stage, and "A Woman's Vengeance," at the Winter Garden are both performing poorly. Third week of "Winter" looks like $49,000, and the second week of "Vengeance," $18,000.

The Sutton looks good for a satisfactory $4,800 for the 25th week of "I Know Where I'm Going."

New 3% Tax Operative

GREENFIELD, O., Feb. 9.—Three per cent admission tax will become effective here in mid-February. Income from the tax will go into the town's general fund and will be drawn upon for playground improvement and for town operating expenses. Fines of from $25 to $100 may be imposed.

Actors Will Fight Taft - Hartley Law

Hollywood, Feb. 9.—Screen Actors Guild has launched a fight against the Taft-Hartley Law in a detailed memorandum to its membership outlining reasons why, including: "The act seeks to encourage individual rather than collective bargaining" and "could result in making a mockery of the Guild shop and doing away with all of the benefits which actors have won through a Guild shop."

Brandt Motion in Para. Suit Weighed

Harry Brandt's motion to have portions of the complaint stricken out in Paramount's $563,265 percentage suit against him and others here was heard yesterday before Justice Samuel Null in New York Supreme Court. Decision was reserved.

Milton C. Weisman, counsel for the defendant, contended that the complaint was loaded with "improbable, irrelevant and evidentiary allegations" that had "destroyed" Brandt's reputation "in advance of trial."

Characterizing the complaint as "vicious," Weisman said that the Brandt Theatres president's brothers, William, Louis and Bernard B., had been injected into the suit "presumably to give further color to the charges and further besmirch Brandt."

Louis Nizer, who represented Paramount, told that court that there existed "no ulterior motive" in the company's action against Brandt. He claimed charges against the defendants were based strictly on "statements of fact."

In a memorandum filed with the court at the time of argument on the original Brandt motion, counsel for Paramount charged that "the defendants have sought to distract attention from the issues raised in the complaint by tangent and extraneous contentions" and asked that the defendants be required to answer the plaintiffs' accusations to hasten the trial.

The memorandum asserted it would be "more consistent with defendants' good faith" if they filed a verified answer denying Paramount's allegations and seeking a speedy trial than "to seek to strike out these allegations so that they need not file an answer to them."

Bernhard and Herzog On Cinecolor Board

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9.—Joseph Bernhard, president of Film Classics, and Karl Herzog, Film Classics and Cinecolor treasurer, were elected to the board of directors of Cinecolor today at the annual meeting of stockholders which also voted to increase board membership from seven to nine. All incumbent board members were re-elected.

Stockholders also approved the sale of 15,000 shares of authorized but unissued common stock to A. Pam Blumenthal, 10,000 to William T. Crespinel, 10,000 to Alan M. Gundelfinger and 5,000 to Herzog. Film Classics sales manager Bernard Kranze was also voted an option to purchase 10,000 shares.

Advance Plans for Large-Screen Video

While RKO yesterday called off a theatre television demonstration scheduled for the circuit's 58th Street Theatre here because of a last-minute refusal by National Broadcasting to supply a program, Colonial Television, manufacturers of a large-screen set, said it would go ahead with plans for the machine's public demonstration at the Concourse Plaza Hotel in the Bronx on Thursday.

The projector to have been used yesterday was the same one installed at the Pantages in Hollywood. Called the "Vision Master," the set uses a refracted type of projection system similar to the type used for motion picture projection. The machine stands three-and-one-half-feet high, weighs only 89 pounds, is mounted on wheels and can be used for either front or rear-projection, producing a picture measuring up to 10 by 12 feet.

The machine was demonstrated at the Almira Theatre, Cleveland, Feb. 6. According to Ira Becker, vice-president of Colonial, the company now is developing an attachment to permit the recording of images from the tube onto film.

RKO Launches Video Ads

Marking the first time that RKO Theatres has used television to advertise a film in its New York houses, a series of "spot" announcements for the opening of RKO Radio's "Tycoon" at all local RKO theatres has started over station WNBT, here.

14 Rated by Legion; 'Furia' Condemned

"Furia," Italian-made feature imported by Westport International and released here by Film Classics, has been given a Class C (condemned) rating by the National Legion of Decency.

Of 13 additional pictures reviewed by the Legion, two were classified A-I; they are: RKO Radio's "If You Knew Susie," and Astor's "Western Terror." In Class A-II were placed "Adventures of Casanova" and "The Big Fix," both Eagle-Lion; "Alias a Gentleman," M-G-M; "Beauty and the Beast" (French), Lopert Films; "Mourning Becomes Electra," RKO Radio, and "The Naked City," Universal-International. Five were placed in Class B: "Arch of Triumph" and "A Miracle Can Happen," both United Artists; "Jassy," U-I; "The Story of Tosca" (Italian), Superfilm, and "Three Daring Daughters," M-G-M.

Five More Chairmen For 'Brotherhood'

Five more theatre leaders have been named state chairmen for "Brotherhood Week," sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, to be held on Feb. 22-29. The list now totals 47.

New additions include Arthur Robinson for the Michigan area; Mike Guttman, South Dakota; Arthur Lockwood, Massachusetts; Roger Mendenhall, Idaho; William H. Thedford, Oregon.

Royal Theatre Burns

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 9.—The Royal Theatre, Meridian, Miss., belonging to A. L. Royal, was completely destroyed by fire.

56% Eire Tax Cuts Receipts by 40%

By T. J. M. SHEEHY

DUBLIN, Feb. 5 (By Airmail).—Box-office receipts are down as much as 40 per cent in some theatres here as a direct result of the new government tax of 56 per cent on admissions. In several cases theatres are operating at a loss, and unless relief is forthcoming many theatres will close. The tax raised ticket prices proportionately.

Theatre operators anticipated a drop in attendance when the tax became effective last Jan. 16, but they did not expect it to be so tremendous. The trade is preparing a campaign directed at the new government—elections were held last week—to obtain a tax reduction in the new national budget which comes up in April.

Distribution Deal in Mexico Made by E-L

Conclusion of a Mexican distribution-exhibition deal was announced here yesterday by Samuel L. Seidelman, Eagle-Lion foreign chief, the deal having been made with Manuel J. Peron, head of Espectaculos de Yucatan, which owns and operates 119 theatres in Yucatan, Campeche and Tabasco, and the territory of Queintana Roo.

The deal, according to Seidelman, assures E-L preferred playing time for its own Hollywood product and J. Arthur Rank British productions released by E-L in Latin America. The Mexican company will also act as subdistributor for E-L product and E-L releases of Rank's British product. Peron, who arrived here last week to finalize the deal with E-L, will leave for Mexico this week.

Use New Method to Test Film Script

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—Independent producer-director Herbert Leeds' forthcoming film "Incorrigible," was pretested by the "arousal method" here. Arrangements were made to use the electropsychograph machine, similar to the lie detector, on a number of persons, getting the average film patron's reaction to high spots of the script as it is read to them. The results will guide screen writers from an audience viewpoint.

Ben Silvey, 53

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9.—Services were held here yesterday for Ben Silvey, 53, 20th Century-Fox unit production manager, who died Saturday. Interment will be in New York. Silvey, who was in the motion picture business for 35 years, leaves the widow, Mrs. Vivian Silvey; a brother, Dr. Morris Silberman, and a sister, Mrs. Sam Cohen, both of New York.

Mrs. Pauline Greenthal

Funeral services for Mrs. Pauline Greenthal, mother of Monroe Greenthal, publicist, will take place this morning at the West End Funeral Chapel here, with interment in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Hastings-on-the-Hudson. Mrs. Greenthal, who died on Sunday, leaves a brother, Joseph Wertheimer, and a sister, Mrs. Rose Wechsler.

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U-I Heads to London

(*Continued from page* 1)

mutual problems arising out of the continuation of the 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax in Britain, discuss plans for the distribution of Rank films in America, and for their first across-the-table conference with Rank in almost two years. The complete roster of the interlocking relations between U-I and the Rank companies are on the agenda. It was pointed out that the U-I executives will not discuss the settlement of the *ad valorem* tax with any Great Britain officials, as this matter is under discussion on high government levels and by Eric Johnston, who represents the Motion Picture Association of America in the discussions.

John Joseph Due Here Tomorrow For Two Weeks of Conferences

John Joseph, national director of advertising-publicity for Universal-International, will arrive in New York tomorrow for two weeks of promotion conferences on forthcoming pictures, including "All My Sons," "The Naked City," "Casbah," "Letter from an Unknown Woman" and "Up in Central Park." Joseph will participate in the U-I regional sales meeting in New York next week.

Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director, arrived in New York yesterday from Chicago. Bergman spent several weeks at the studio in conferences on forthcoming pictures and then attended a regional sales meeting in St. Louis.

SIMPP Unit

(*Continued from page* 1)

Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers. The committee, known as the Eastern distribution committee, will work with SIMPP counsel Robert J. Rubin, and will report back to the executive committee.

Appointment of the committee was announced at the SIMPP meeting here today, presided over by Gunther Lessing, executive committee chairman, and attended by 35 leading independent producers. UA president Sears and vice-president Arthur Kelly were guest speakers.

Sears told the membership that "if ever there was a time when independents needed to band together for their own protection, the time is now." Revenue from the foreign market is down about 75 per cent and may be cut still further to 90 per cent, he said, adding that costs of maintaining foreign distribution are prohibitive.

Results of the Jackson Park decree in the Chicago area are generally beneficial to independents, he observed.

Films to Libraries

(*Continued from page* 1)

more than 400 originally produced for theatrical showing. The 178 films are being distributed by Teaching Film Custodians, a non-profit MPAA affiliate, to the libraries, from which they will be loaned to the adult groups.

The films were chosen under the direction of the Commission on Motion Pictures in Adult Education, sponsored by the American Association on Adult Education. More than 30 libraries in as many cities will be the first to receive the films, with scores of others expected to participate soon. The films selected are representative of the best short subject material of MPAA members, Albright stated.

Reviews

"I Became a Criminal"

(*Warner Brothers*)

Hollywood, Feb. 9

PRODUCED in England with a cast of players whose names have not been established for American marquee purposes, this film follows with vim, vigor and violence the pattern of the gangster pictures produced in Hollywood several years ago and recently discontinued by industry policy. Its usefulness in the present American market appears to be limited to those theatres which specialize in extreme melodrama and can exploit attractions of this type without benefit of known stars.

The scene is Manchester, England, the time is post-war, and the gangster whose activities give rise to all the troubles is a black market operator employing a band of thugs who smuggle contraband in coffins under guise of conducting a funeral business. A discharged RAF pilot, unadjusted to the peace but at bottom a decent fellow, joins up with the gangster, intending to dabble only lightly in crime, but incurs the gangster's jealousy and is framed for a killing. He escapes from prison, returns to avenge himself upon his framers, and eventually does so, although returning to serve a prison term which promises to be shortened in consequence of his having brought about the elimination of the gangster and his crews.

Murders by gun, by knife and by automobile are among the incidents shown, which include also the gangster's beating up of a former sweetheart and the imminent flogging of another to make her reveal information which leads to the killing of her boy friend. The players are Sally Gray, Trevor Howard, Griffith Jones, Rene Ray, Mary Merrall, Charles Farrell, Phyllis Robins, Vida Hope, Eve Ashley, Jack McNaughton and Ballard Berkely. It is an A. R. Shipman production, produced by N. A. Bronsten and directed by Cavalcanti, from a script by Noel Langley, based on a novel by Jackson Budd entitled "A Convict Has Escaped."

Running time, 78 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Take My Life"

(*Rank—Eagle-Lion*)

DRAMATIC material is deftly handled in "Take My Life," J. Arthur Rank's latest entry here. Telling the story of a man charged with murder he never committed, the picture, though modest in production values, moves with sufficient pace and suspense to make engrossing entertainment. The thick British accents, however, may prove obstacles to some.

Best part of the mystery-drama is the story that builds up rather effectively, with an off-stage voice giving direction and emphasis to the developments. The cast is little known here, but they all perform well, headed by Hugh Williams, Greta Gynt and Marius Goring. The original story, by Winston Graham and Valerie Taylor accumulates evidence against Williams, when a former lover of his is found murdered. It remains for his wife, Miss Gynt, to go through a series of adventures, sometimes brisk and exciting, other times static, before the true murderer is unearthed. There are some good photographic touches. Production was handled by Anthony Havelock-Allen, with direction by Ronald Neame.

Running time, 79 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Red Probe Unit

(*Continued from page* 1)

10 witnesses, in which the constitutionality of the committee was questioned and the request made to transfer the trials from Washington.

Hitz said he based his answer on the decision of the Second Circuit Court of New York in the case of Leon Josephson, another witness cited for contempt by the committee.

Hitz will also state to the District Court, he said, that anti-Communist feeling here is not so violent as to prejudice any decision by the court and that it will not be an "undue hardship" for the 10 defendants to travel here for their trials, as their attorneys' motion declared.

First trial, that of writer John Howard Lawson, is scheduled to open Feb. 24.

Denver Operators Elect

DENVER, Feb. 9.—New officers have been elected by IATSE Local No. 230, operators, as follows: J. W. Dooley, president; Charles P. Weber, vice-president; R. E. Walker, secretary; Van M. Kelly, treasurer, W. O. Rhodes, sergeant-at-arms, and Harold Banzhof, G. L. Campbell and L. A. Barefield, trustees.

Balaban Heads UJA

(*Continued from page* 1)

paign, largest private philanthropic drive ever undertaken.

He warned that the $250,000,000 UJA goal represents only a fraction of the overall budgetary needs of its three constituent agencies, the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal, and the United Service for New Americans.

Actual sum required to resettle 75,000 European refugees in Palestine during 1948, to sustain the displaced persons remaining in Europe, to reestablish 830,000 others in Eastern Europe, to conduct special relief programs for 420,000 in Western Europe and to assist an estimated minimum of 20,000 new immigrants arriving in the United States, is $395,000,000, he asserted.

In announcing Balaban's acceptance, Morgenthau paid tribute to his "service in humanitarian causes."

Daniel Back in Dallas

DALLAS, Feb. 9.—L. O. Daniel, Jr., formerly manager of the Delman in Houston, has returned to Dallas to handle public relations for I. B. Adelman Theatres. Daniel was formerly with the old Paramount Publix organization here and later managed the Texas in San Antonio.

ASCAP Rates

(*Continued from page* 1)

been paying Ascap $320 annually would pay $400, or about $6.66 per month increase, under the new rates.

It was reported here that the Independent Theatre Owners of New York regards the new rates so favorably that it may recommend to the membership that its pending anti-trust suit against Ascap, scheduled to go to trial on Wednesday in New York, be withdrawn.

Washington reports that the ITOA might advise its members to drop its trust suit against Ascap were described as baseless yesterday by Harry Brandt, head of the exhibitor organization, and Milton C. Weisman, its counsel.

Weisman pointed out that the ITOA's suit was instituted when the old rates were in effect. He intimated that if the ITOA objected to the former rates it certainly would not approve of the new ones, which are higher in most instances.

Jersey Allied to 'Sit Tight' And Await Lewis Bill Action

TRENTON, Feb. 9.—At a general membership meeting of the Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey in the Stacy-Trent Hotel here today, the organization resolved to "sit tight" and withhold comment on the new per-seat theatre music license rates announced by Ascap.

A Jersey Allied spokesman said the organization will await the fate of the Lewis Bill in Congress, which would add theatre music license fees to film rentals, before drawing any conclusions on the newly-offered rates.

E-L Employes' Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

which will result in a saving of many thousands of dollars, or additional revenue in the same amount, is entitled to a liberal award. At the same time, we feel that an employe who submits a plan which will aid the company in any way, even though not to the extent of the first suggestion, is also entitled to an award, even though it will, in fairness, be smaller."

The employes' suggestion system committee which will rule on the acceptability of all suggestions submitted consists of Krim, chairman; William J. Heineman, vice-president in charge of distribution, who will be chairman in Krim's absence; J. J. Skelly, personnel director, and secretary of the committee; Harold S. Dunn, assistant general sales manager; C. Warren Sharpe, treasurer; Frank Soule, in charge of branch operations, and Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising-publicity.

MPF 'Scope' Survey

(*Continued from page* 1)

Cohen, Leon Bamberger, Chick Lewis, Louis A. Novins, Robert W. Chambers and William Jenkins.

Cleveland Meet on MPF

CLEVELAND, Feb. 9.—Formation of a local unit of the Motion Picture Foundation is on the agenda of a luncheon-meeting here tomorrow at the Statler Hotel. Meeting was called by Nat Wolf, Warner theatre zone manager in Ohio, and Bert Lefkowich of the Community Circuit.

U. S. Case

(*Continued from page* 1)

Murphy who also was Attorney General at one period in the 10-year life of the case, did not. Thus eight of the nine Justices are sitting, leaving the possibility of a split decision. A four-to-four decision would mean the decree of the New York expediting court in the case would be upheld.

The first 70 minutes of the Court session today was devoted to the reading of decisions in prior cases. Attorney General Clark rose to speak at 1:10 P.M.

Bidding Held 'Inadequate'

Asserting that in the Government's view "the basic question before this Court is what relief is appropriate under the facts in the case," Arnold proceeded to argue the New York court's order for competitive bidding is not an adequate answer to the restraints of trade it held existed in the industry.

"The Government insists," he said, "that the defendants' direct or indirect stock ownership in all of the theatre corporations involved in the conspiracies found below is at once a continuing cause of the competitive discrimination which the court condemned and a continuing means by which it may be carried out."

Arnold said the basic relief sought by the Government, divorcement, was rejected by the lower court even though "it was recognized as a permissible solution for the Sherman Act violations it found. The court concluded that before such relief could be granted, a new system of regulating the industry by competitive bidding must first be tried out."

The eight Supreme Court Justices listened attentively as Arnold spoke, interrupting only rarely to ask questions concerning trade practices. Associate Justices Felix Frankfurter, Hugo Black, Frank Murphy and William O. Douglas were the questioners. The questions were addressed at dominant theatre ownership, regional theatre ownership by defendants and pooling agreements, and the New York court's order permitting defendants to acquire or dispose of theatre interests which are less than 95 per cent or more than five per cent owned.

Case Is 'Really Simple'

Davis told the Court that the "multiplication of statistics" can make any case complex, "and there are plenty of statistics in this one."

"But this case really is simple," he continued. "The question to decide is identifiable."

He proceeded to tell the Court that no monopoly was found by the court below, "only restraint of trade." The Government itself, Davis pointed out, had dropped its allegations of a monopoly in production. The Government's brief, he said, does not contend that "each defendant has a national monopoly" of distribution. He declared that no theatre has been closed for lack of film.

Davis argued that the ownership of 3,137 theatres by the defendants, out of a total of "18,076 at the time of trial," could not "individually nor collectively constitute a monopoly of exhibition."

He said that Loew's owns a total of 131 theatres in the United States; 69 in New York, and competes in each location with other theatre operators. Loew's has only two first runs in New York, Davis said, the Capitol and Criterion. "The other 67 are subsequent runs," he added.

"We have a monopoly of our own product, and sell to our own outlets. What's wrong with that?" he asked.

Justice Black inquired whether there is any "alliance" of ownership between affiliated theatres.

"Only in robust imaginations," Davis replied.

The Loew's attorney charged that the Government's attempt to obtain a prohibition against the "cross-licensing" of affiliated theatres is not designed to eliminate temptations or restrain defendants from infractions of the law.

Strangulation Sought: Davis

"It has a deeper, far more subtle purpose," he said. "It is economic strangulation. What the Government says is: 'If you can't cut their necks, starve them out'."

Davis contended, also, that the term "cross-licensing" is "a misnomer." Distributors' contracts with affiliated theatres, he contended, are the same as those with independent theatres.

He described clearance and run as the "principal controversy in the industry." The system, he said, is essential in that it is physically and financially impossible to provide enough films to show in all theatres at the same time. Davis contended, too, that there is no opposition to clearance and runs fundamentally; it is simply that theatre B would like to be first run instead of theatre A, and theatre C would like to have the clearance theatre B has and so on.

The New York decree, he pointed out, validates clearance that is reasonable as to time and area.

The Court listened with apparent interest to Davis and was moved to smiles on several occasions by his digs at some of the contentions of the Justice Department.

300 Attend Hearing

A capacity crowd of more than 300 filled the marble columned and red velvet-draped courtroom throughout the day.

Arguments of the intervention appellants, ATA, SCTOA and CSA, were confined entirely to opposition to competitive bidding. Arnold, who as an assistant attorney general had helped the Government prosecute the suit in its early stages, charged that in ordering the defendants to sell in that manner alone, the New York court had directed them to act in a uniform and concerted manner after having found them guilty of so acting in other matters, and imposing injunctions upon them for having done so.

At one juncture, Justice Frankfurter interposed: "People don't have to go to the movies at all."

Arnold said, "No. They can stay home."

"So can you," the Justice remarked, apparently referring to the intervention action.

Arnold charged that the Government is not representing exhibitor interests. "We have a right to," he said.

Arnold also contended that competitive bidding goes beyond the power of the Court to order. "It is a legislative, not a judicial, order," he said.

Arnold Attacks Bidding

He said the New York court thought injunction was too mild a relief for the defendants, and divestiture too drastic. "Then fearing there weren't enough films to go round, it ordered bidding," he said. He charged there are so many types of bids possible for exhibitors to make, that the final decision rests with the defendants as to who will get the films, exactly as that decision was their's before.

Col. Barton attacked competitive bidding on the grounds that it unjustly opens the way to free-booting competition against old established customers and that it deprives theatre owners of the assurance of a steady flow of product.

Asked by Justice Frankfurter if exhibitors still would not have treble damage relief under the anti-trust laws available to them in cases of business injury, Barton said: "We don't believe so. The companies' defense would be the New York decree."

Frankfurter also wanted to know whether competitive bidding had ever before been used in the industry and was told it had not, that it came as a surprise to the defendants as well as to exhibitors.

Barton charged that only distributors can benefit from competitive bidding; that it will cost the exhibitor more for films and that the increased costs will have to be passed along to the public.

CSA Aloof on Divorcement

Justice Black asked Barton what CSA thinks of divorcement and was told "We take no position on that."

After using one of its three hours of allotted time today the Government will give one hour each to Assistant Attorney Generals Robert Wright and John Sonnett, who will be the last to speak, in that order. Each defense attorney following Davis will have 35 minutes before the Court. The speaking order is (after Davis): Whitney North Seymour, Paramount; General William Donovan, RKO; Louis Frohlich, Columbia; Thomas Turner Cooke, Universal; Edward Raftery, United Artists; Joseph Proskauer, Warners, and James F. Byrnes, 20th Century-Fox.

Numerous industry executives were in the courtroom today as observers, among them N. Peter Rathvon, Gordon Youngman, Austin Keough, Harry Kalmine, Ben Kalmenson, J. Robert Rubin, Leopold Friedman, Sidney Schreiber, Robert Mochrie, Ed Weisl, Adolph Schimel, Ted Gamble, Robert Coyne, Abram Myers, Herman Levy, Ben Strozier, William Crockett, Louis Phillips, Arthur Schwartz, Willard McKay, Carter Barron.

Housing Hearings To Resume Monday

Washington, Feb. 9. — The Senate Banking and Currency Committee has set Feb. 16 as the date for its next session for grappling with an extension of the present rent and housing law. It is under this law that theatre curbs are presently exercised. A subcommittee has recommended that the construction curbs be dropped.

One committee official said that "There seemed to be general agreement on dropping the limitation order."

Volk Case Delayed Until March 8

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 9.—Hearings on an injunction action brought by Volk Brothers, Minneapolis exhibitors, to restrain major film companies from enforcing contracts, and from bringing percentage action suits, or to enforce an accounting or audit of their books were continued to March 8 by Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye in Federal district court here.

Judge Nordbye passed the motion suggested by attorney Benedict Deinard, representing the Volks, who pointed out that the U. S. Supreme Court is now hearing final appeal arguments in the industry's anti-trust suit. Deinard contends that if the high court upholds the ruling of the three-judge court in the industry New York decree case, distributors would lack power to bring percentage charges against the Volks as the film contracts would become invalid because of their price-fixing clauses in percentage engagements.

The Volks' injunction action was filed last September in a maneuver to stymie complaints filed by a number of major film companies charging the exhibitors with making inaccurate returns on percentage pictures.

Boost Theatre Fees

SPRINGFIELD, O., Feb. 9.—For the first time in 42 years, theatre license fees have been increased from $50 annually for any size theatre, to $75 for theatres seating up to 350, $100 where capacity ranges from 351 to 750, and for houses with a greater seating capacity, $150.

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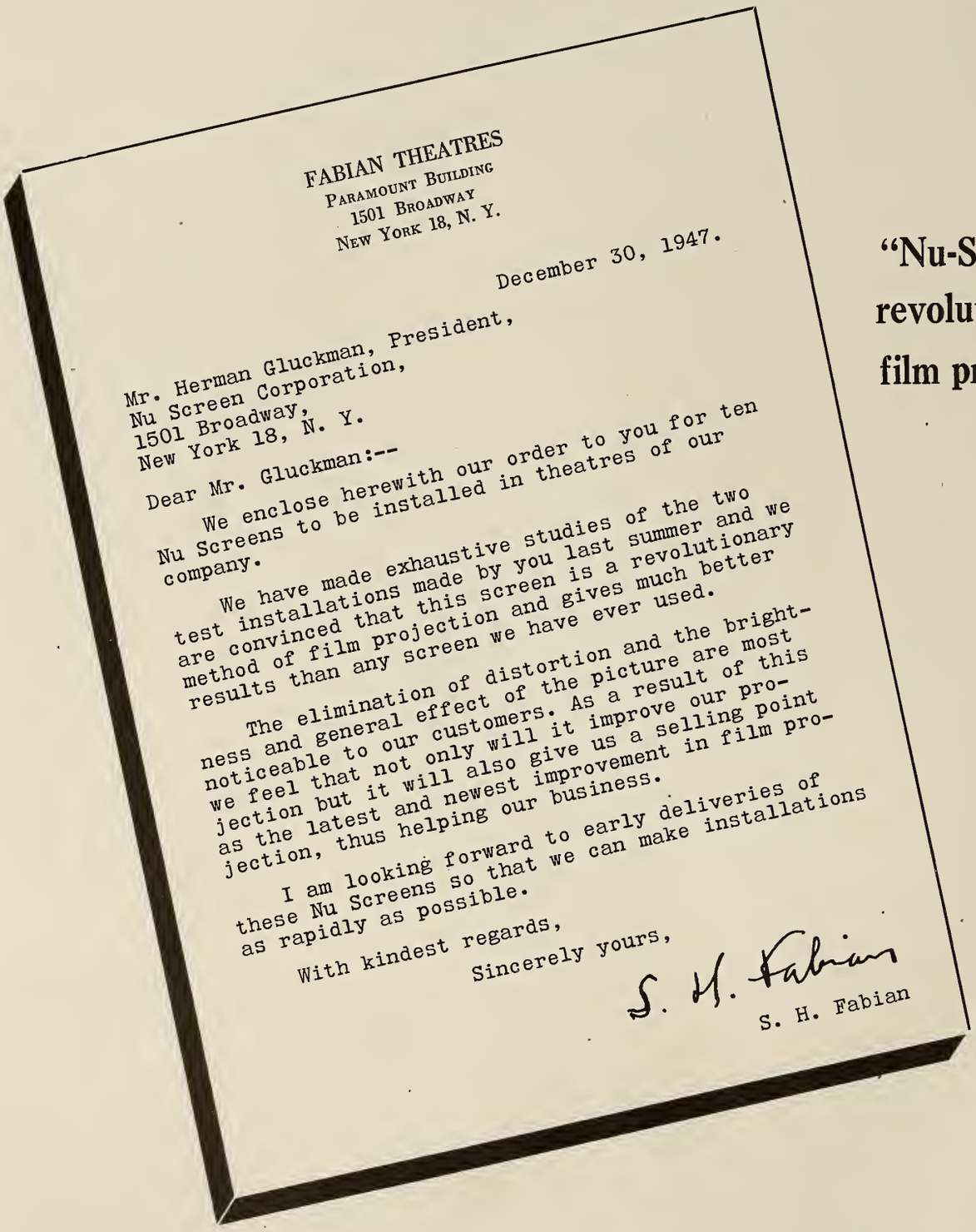
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I am looking forward to early deliveries of these Nu Screens so that we can make installations as rapidly as possible.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

S. H. Fabian

S. H. Fabian

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TOA Sets Up Nat'l Council For Legal Aid

Will Advise Theatres on Problems of All Types

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Attorneys and legislative agents within the Theatre Owners of America today set up a Legal Advisory Council to aid in bringing local problems to a national level.

The Council will also act as an informaion bureau for attorneys who need assistance in local and national problems of all types—legislative, tax questions, court cases—and will lay plans for the immediate formation of an industry forum.

Next meeting will be held early in May in New York, according to TOA counsel Herman Levy.

Present at the first meeting, in addition to Levy, were Tom Friday, Pennsylvania Comerford Theatres; Maury Miller, TOA of New Jersey; Lawrence E. Gordon and Byron Pol-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Urge Owners Aid Video in Theatres

That exhiibtion "encourage and finance, if necessary, accelerated research in the field of theatre television to narrow the gap now evident between theatre and home television" is advocated in a report made public here yesterday by the Theatre Owners of America.

The report, prepared under the supervision of the TOA television committee, consisting of E. V. Richards, Mitchell Wolfson, Arthur Lockwood, David Wallerstein, Charles P.

(*Continued on page 7*)

Renominate Board Of 'U' for Election

All 14 members of Universal's board of directors have been nominated for reelection at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in Wilmington, on March 10. Board members are: J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman; N. J. Blumberg, company president; Matthew Fox, executive vice-president;

(*Continued on page 2*)

TOA Opposes Ascap Bill

Theatre Owners of America will strongly oppose the pending Lewis Bill in Congress requiring Ascap to deal with film producers instead of exhibitors, it was reliably reported here yesterday. TOA will take this position when hearings open in Washington before a House Judiciary subcommittee on March 1. Either TOA president Ted Gamble, executive director Bob Coyne, or counsel Herman Levy is slated to testify for TOA.

The group is reported to feel that Ascap will be in a much better position to enforce its demands on a handful of producers than on 16,000 theatre owners scattered all over the United States. Top TOA officials believe that Ascap could get from the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Move to Step Up Drive to Cut Tax

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Top Theatre Owners of America leaders at a private breakfast meeting here today decided an exhibitors' drive to cut the U. S. admission tax must be stepped up if action is to be obtained at this session of Congress.

One specific move will be taken in the near future when TOA legislative director A. Julian Brylawski will try to pin down House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Knutson on his admission tax plans. Knutson is planning a second tax reform bill to be reported in mid-March, but he has indicated to reporters there is nothing in it cutting large excises.

'Photoplay' Awards To Bergman, Bing

Ingrid Bergman, Bing Crosby, and "The Jolson Story" were the nation's most enjoyed actress, actor and motion picture in 1947, according to the nation-wide poll which Dr. George Gallup's Audience Research has conducted for Photoplay.

On Feb. 16, the annual "Photoplay Gold Medal" banquet will be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, Cal., where they will be awarded to Crosby and Bergman and to Columbia Pictures, as the producer of "The Jolson Story." Sidney Skolsky, Alfred E. Green, and Stephen Longstreet will also receive gold medals as the producer, director and

(*Continued on page 7*)

SAYS GOVERNMENT FATHERED DECREE

Ascap Rates Before Allied Board Meet

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Whether Allied States should go along with the Ascap rates won recently by the Theatre Owners of America, or take its attack to the Department of Justice, will be determined by the Allied board of directors at its mid-winter meeting set for Feb. 16-18, here, it was announced today by Allied counsel Abram F. Myers.

Further, in connection with Ascap, the board will select witnesses to represent the association at the hearings beginning March 1 on the Lewis Bill, and consider participation in cases against Ascap now pending or to be brought in the courts later.

Once Ascap matters are disposed of, the board will turn steps to see "that whatever decree may finally be entered

(*Continued on page 7*)

Heineman's First E-L Sales Meeting

William J. Heineman, new distribution vice-president for Eagle-Lion Films, will preside at his first sales meeting since taking that post on Saturday and Sunday at the Hotel Warwick, New York.

At the meeting, sales policy will be discussed on forthcoming releases, and plans will be revealed for an increase in promotional budgets in line with the company's point-of-sale promotion policy. Addresses will be made by Heineman, E-L president Arthur B. Krim; Bryan Foy, vice-president in charge of production, and Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising-publicity.

UA Set for a Year In UK, Says Coplan

United Artists product now in release in the United Kingdom, plus a number of new pictures, will be able to see the company through the year there, it was disclosed here yesterday by David Coplan, UA's managing director in Great Britain, following his arrival in the United States.

The company now has but one pic-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Proskauer Lays Auction Plan to Justice Aide; Byrnes to Speak Today

By SHERWIN KANE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10. — The general belief that the idea for competitive bidding was fathered by the New York Federal expediting court which gave it to the industry in its decree in the Government anti-trust suit against the eight major companies was shown to be in error during the appeal arguments before the U. S. Supreme Court here today.

The auction bidding plan originated with Robert Wright, assistant to the Attorney General, Joseph M. Proskauer, counsel for Warners, told the high Court and read from the record of the New York trial to prove it.

All defense counsel with the exception of former Supreme Court Justice James F. Byrnes, now counsel for 20th Century-Fox, completed their arguments today, the second day before the high Court. Byrnes will open the final day of arguments tomorrow, using up the 35 minutes remaining of the total of five hours allotted to the eight major defendants. He will be followed by Wright, who has one hour before the Court, and the arguments will be concluded thereafter by Assistant Attorney General John F. Sonnett, in charge of the anti-trust division, who also will have one hour.

In ascribing the parenthood of auction bidding to a suggestion made by Wright during the New York trial, Proskauer quoted from the record to show that the suggestion was apparently approved by Judge John Bright, who said that auction bidding would not be contrary to the Sherman Act.

Proskauer also made the first and only argument on behalf of industry arbitration before the Supreme Court thus far. He told the Court that when clearance schedules had been found improper by the court, the defendants

(*Continued on page 6*)

No Paper Tomorrow

Motion Picture Daily **will not be published tomorrow, Lincoln's Birthday, a legal holiday.**

Personal Mention

BRYAN FOY, Eagle-Lion production chief, has left Hollywood for New York.

•

J. J. FITZGIBBONS, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., yesterday received the decoration of Commander of the Order of the British Empire at ceremonies at Government House, Ottawa, for his services during the war.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON, Motion Picture Association of America president, and KENNETH CLARK, MPAA press relations head, are in New York for a WOR broadcast today and will return to Washington this afternoon.

•

EDDIE CANTOR will address the San Francisco Advertising Club on Feb. 18 and will be given an "American Citizenship Medal" by the local veterans' organization.

•

HAROLD POSTMAN, M-G-M exchange operations executive, will leave New York Sunday for St. Louis, Kansas City and New Orleans.

•

CHARLES SMAKWITZ, Albany, N. Y., area promotion representative for Warner theatres, is in town.

•

WILLIAM WYLER, Paramount producer-director, and his assistant, LESTER KOENIG, have left here for Hollywood.

•

N. E. SAVINI, Astor Pictures special representative in Atlanta, and MRS. SAVINI, have returned to Atlanta from New Orleans.

•

EDWARD FIDELI of the Rialto Thetre, Worcester, Mass., and MRS. FIDELI have become parents of a son.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER of M-G-M's sales department left here for the Coast yesterday.

•

MAX WEINBERG, M-G-M Eastern short subjects representative, will leave here today for Washington.

•

JACK LANE, manager of the Delta Theatre, Brentwood, Cal., has been elected mayor of Brentwood.

Nearly All Companies Closing Tomorrow

Paramount, Universal, Warner Brothers, Columbia, United Artists, Monogram, Eagle-Lion and the Motion Picture Association of America will close at 12 or one o'clock tomorrow, in observance of Lincoln's Birthday. RKO, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and 20th Century-Fox will be closed all day. Republic was undecided yesterday on its schedule.

List $52 Millions As '47 UK Payment

LONDON, Feb. 10.—The U. S. film industry's remittances from Britain for last year are listed provisionally here at $52,000,000, or $16,000,000 below the $68,000,000 remitted for 1946. This was disclosed in a British government "white paper" report on the nation's economic situation, together with the disclosure that Britain's adverse balance of dollar area payments in 1947 amounted to 626,000,000 pounds ($2,504,000,000).

Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps said today, in conjunction with the issuance of the report, that Britain's imports will be reduced again if necessary, but refused to give any indication as to what cuts are in the offing.

Questioned in the House of Commons whether he would consider negotiations with the U. S. on dollar arrangements similar to those made by Australia, Sir Stafford replied in the negative. Such an arrangement, he said, is not appropriate to Britain's situation.

U-I Sales Policy in Chicago to Continue

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—Universal-International will continue to sell its product in this territory according to regulations set forth by the Jackson Park decree and it has no plans for setting up a breakdown of zone situations similar to the 20th Century-Fox and RKO Radio systems, William A. Scully, U-I vice-president and general sales manager, declared here today at the companys' regional sales meeting. General sales problems were discussed as well as new U-I films. Other U-I executives attending the meeting were Charles Feldman, A. J. O'Keefe, E. T. Gomersall, James Jordan, John Joseph and M. M. Gottlieb.

Meanwhile, it was announced from New York that the Eastern regional sales meeting, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel next Sunday through Wednesday, will be attended by home office executives, and branch managers and salesmen from Albany, Boston, Buffalo, Cleveland, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington and Canada.

MGM Auction Selling Continues in Chicago

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—While Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has not yet set any definite sales policy in the Chicago territory, to sell under the Jackson Park decree, the company continues to sell a back-log of pictures not yet played here, to first-run Loop theatres in open competitive bidding.

M-G-M product set for Loop showings, besides "Green Dolphin Street," now playing the Chicago Theatre, and "Killer McCoy," at the Oriental, are "Desire Me," at the Monroe; "Cass Timberlane," at the Woods, and "Arnelo Affair," at the State-Lake.

Eyssell Awarded Citation by British

G. S. Eyssell, president and managing director of Radio City Music Hall, yesterday was awarded the Ribbon of the King's Medal at a ceremony aboard the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth*. The presentation was made by Sir Francis Evans, British Consul General.

The citation accompanying the award read "for service in the cause of freedom and in recognition of the valuable services rendered."

'U' Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

John J. O'Connor, vice-president; Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel, and Robert S. Benjamin, Paul G. Brown, Preston Davie, William J. German, Ottavio Prochet, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Shaeffer and G. I. Woodham-Smith.

A stockholders' notice issued here yesterday states that the company had outstanding on Jan. 17, 1948, 66,560 shares of ½ per cent cumulative preferred stock, and 960,498 shares of common, all having voting rights.

Aggregate remuneration paid by the company and its subsidiaries for the year ended Nov. 1, 1947, to directors and to officers, is listed as follows: Benjamin, $5,178; Blumberg, $188,785; Brown, $2,608; Cowdin, $188,785; Davie, $8,458; Fox, $126,606; German, $6,408; O'Connor $57,971; Prochet, $7,758; Prutzman, $111,006; Rank, $222; Rogers, $12,488; Shaeffer, $10,758; Harold S. Brewster, assistant treasurer, $33,800; S. Machnovitch, treasurer and assistant secretary, $30,160; Edward Muhl, assistant secretary, $42,150; Schimel, $38,200; William A. Scully, vice-president, $126,606; Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president, $111,006; Eugene F. Walsh, comptroller and assistant treasurer, $29,620.

Officers and directors whose annual remuneration was more than $20,000, and who last year received remuneration in excess of that paid the previous year, were Brewster, $1,367 in excess; Fox, $24,707 in excess; Machnovitz, $160; Muhl, $10,300; Schimel, $5,630; Walsh, $1,860.

The company reports that 18 last year received remuneration in excess of $100,000 each, for a total of $2,920,154; 23 received in excess of $50,000, but not more than $100,000, for a total of $1,537,155, and 90 received in excess of $20,000, but not more than $50,000, for a total of $2,841,590.

'U' Sales Staff Will Get Heineman Duties

Universal's sales organization, under distribution vice-president William A. Scully, will absorb the duties of William J. Heineman, who has resigned as general sales manager of the J. Arthur Rank division to become vice-president in charge of distribution for Eagle-Lion, a Universal executive disclosed here yesterday.

Newsreel Parade

GEN. EISENHOWER'S retirement as Army Chief of Staff is a highlight in all current newsreels. Other items include funeral rites for Gandhi, the winter Olympics, and varied human interest stories. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 12—Funeral of Gandhi. Gen. Eisenhower retires as U. S. Chief of Staff. U. S. Airforce demonstrates "paradogs" in action. Winter Olympics.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 246—Gen. Eisenhower quits Army. India's grieving multitudes bid farewell to Gandhi. Arctic thriller exercises "paradogs." New record in triplets.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 49—Fire destroys historic New Haven Inn. Gen. Eisenhower retires; Gen. Bradley is new Chief of Staff. U. S. makes Olympic history.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 116—Gen. Eisenhower swears in Gen. Omar Bradley as new Chief of Staff. Parachuted sled-dogs for Arctic rescue work. Olympic Games in Switzerland.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 51—Gen. Eisenhower departs, Gen. Bradley begins. "Paradogs" in Arctic tests. Last rites for Gandhi. One hundred sentences for guilty driver. A million-to-one triplets. Olympic highlights.

Herman Lorber Will Aid Geo. Schaefer

Herman Lorber has been named assistant to George J. Schaefer, vice-president in charge of distribution for Enterprise Studios.

Lorber, industry veteran, resigned three weeks ago from Paramount after 31 years with that organization, both here and abroad. At the time of his resignation he was home office liaison with Paramount's Mid-Eastern division headquarters in Philadelphia, and handled circuit selling in New York as well.

Goldstein, Lefkowich Head Cleveland MPF

CLEVELAND, Feb. 10.—Harry H. Goldstein, Paramount district manager here, was unanimously elected Motion Picture Foundation trustee for the Cleveland exchange area, and Bert Lefkowich was named chairman at a luncheon-meeting at the Statler Hotel, here, today attended by 50 industry members representing independent and affiliated exhibitors and distributors. Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, and Lefkowich, called the meeting, which Moe Silver and Chick Lewis addressed.

Goldwyn Executives Take 50% Salary Cut

Hollywood, Feb. 10.—Executives of the Samuel Goldwyn company have accepted a 50 per cent reduction in salaries, at Goldwyn's request. Producer said the action is in line with his recently published declaration that production costs must be cut if quality is to be maintained on revenue from the current market.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address: "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo J. Sullivan, Vice-President and Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Yucca-Vine Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 120 South La Salle Street, Editorial and Advertising. Urben Farley, Advertising Representative. Washington, J. A. Otten, 814 South Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington, Va. London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1. Hope Burnup, Manager, Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications; Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THESE!



Last week seven wonderful motion picture entertainments were previewed at the M-G-M Studios. They give thrilling meaning to the industry's new slogan "M-G-M GREAT IN '48!"

"STATE OF THE UNION"

LIBERTY FILMS presents SPENCER TRACY · KATHARINE HEPBURN · VAN JOHNSON · ANGELA LANSBURY ADOLPHE MENJOU · LEWIS STONE in FRANK CAPRA'S "STATE OF THE UNION" · Based on the Play by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse · Screen Play by Anthony Veiller and Myles Connolly · Associate Producer Anthony Veiller Produced and Directed by FRANK CAPRA · A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

"B. F.'s DAUGHTER"

M-G-M presents "B. F.'s DAUGHTER" starring BARBARA STANWYCK · VAN HEFLIN · CHARLES COBURN RICHARD HART · KEENAN WYNN · A ROBERT Z. LEONARD PRODUCTION · Screen Play by Luther Davis Based on the Novel by John P. Marquand · Directed by ROBERT Z. LEONARD · Produced by EDWIN H. KNOPF A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

"THE BRIDE GOES WILD"

M-G-M presents VAN JOHNSON · JUNE ALLYSON in "THE BRIDE GOES WILD" · BUTCH JENKINS · HUME CRONYN · UNA MERKEL · Original Screen Play by Albert Beich · Directed by NORMAN TAUROG · Produced by WILLIAM H. WRIGHT · A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"HOMECOMING"

M-G-M presents CLARK GABLE · LANA TURNER · ANNE BAXTER · JOHN HODIAK in "HOMECOMING" · Ray Collins · Gladys Cooper · Cameron Mitchell · A MERVYN LeROY PRODUCTION · Original Story by Sidney Kingsley Adaptation by Jan Lustig · Screen Play by Paul Osborn Directed by MERVYN LeROY · Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN · A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

"THE PIRATE"

(Technicolor)

M-G-M presents JUDY GARLAND · GENE KELLY in "THE PIRATE" · WALTER SLEZAK · GLADYS COOPER REGINALD OWEN · Songs by COLE PORTER · Color by TECHNICOLOR · Screen Play by Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich · Based on the Play by S. N. Behrman Dance Direction by Robert Alton and Gene Kelly · Directed by VINCENTE MINNELLI · Produced by ARTHUR FREED A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

"EASTER PARADE"

(Technicolor)

M-G-M presents IRVING BERLIN's "EASTER PARADE" starring JUDY GARLAND · FRED ASTAIRE · PETER LAWFORD with ANN MILLER · Color by TECHNICOLOR Music and Lyrics by IRVING BERLIN · Director of Musical Numbers ROBERT ALTON · Directed by CHARLES WALTERS · Produced by ARTHUR FREED · A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

"THE BIG CITY" *(Tentative Title)*

M-G-M presents "THE BIG CITY" starring MARGARET O'BRIEN · ROBERT PRESTON · DANNY THOMAS GEORGE MURPHY · KARIN BOOTH · EDWARD ARNOLD · BUTCH JENKINS · and introducing to the screen BETTY GARRETT and LOTTE LEHMANN · Screen Play by Whitfield Cook and Anne Morrison Chapin · Additional Dialogue by Aben Kandel · Based on a Story by Miklos Laszlo As Adapted by Nanette Kutner · Directed by NORMAN TAUROG · Produced by JOE PASTERNAK · A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

Give Generously For American Brotherhood Week!

GOLD MEDAL PROOF
FROM THE PAYING PUBLIC THAT

Parama





BING CROSBY, winner of Photoplay's Gold Medal as America's Most Popular Male Star.

Paramount Cheers To The Stars



ALAN LADD, one the 5 Most Popul Actors in Photopla Gallup Poll.



JOAN CAULFIELD appearing in more favorite pictures than any other star.

GIVE GENEROUSLY FOR
AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD WEEK

ant *IS THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCER OF POPULAR SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT–WITH*

More Winning Pictures Than Any Other Company In Photoplay's Gallup Poll

This is the judgment of *the whole public*—a judgment far more conclusive than any other Ten Best Lists as Paramount scores

3 of The Year's 10 Most Popular Pictures . . .
"Welcome Stranger," "Dear Ruth," "Blue Skies"

And this is confirmation by millions of the unanimous exhibitor-vote that Paramount produced more Top-Grossing Pictures during the past year than any other company—a fact repeated in the industry's 4 leading polls in Motion Picture Herald's "Fame"—in Boxoffice Barometer—in Variety's annual survey—and in Showmen's Trade Review poll.

Paramount's wide-margin leadership is acclaimed by both groups that count . . . the public who buy tickets and the showmen who sell tickets—and

Paramount

Will Lead Again in '48 with Hits Like

"THE EMPEROR WALTZ"·"ROAD TO RIO"·"DREAM GIRL"·"THE BIG CLOCK"
Hal Wallis' "I WALK ALONE" · "WHISPERING SMITH" · "THE PALEFACE"
"NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES" · "SAIGON" · "THE SAINTED SISTERS"
"THE LONG GREY LINE"·"SEALED VERDICT"

U. S. Case

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made a genuine effort to correct them through the industry arbitration system which, he said, has been maintained by the companies at a cost of thousands of dollars annually, to police the clearance system.

"One of the mysteries of this case," Proskauer told the Court, "is the Government's move to strike out arbitration."

Proskauer's statements were rewarded by a request from Justice Felix Frankfurter for a printed record of the awards made under the industry arbitration system, which Proskauer said would be made available to him.

Davis Completes Argument

John W. Davis, counsel for Loew's, opened the second day of arguments before the Supreme Court by completing in 20 minutes the address he had begun on Monday.

Arguing for a trial of competitive bidding before condemning it as "unworkable," and for experience in that method of selling films which would be a guide to the Federal court in revising the procedure, if necessary, Davis said that Loew's has sold to 281 theatres in 96 situations by that method, to date. "We did not ask for competitive bidding," he said, "but we are willing to give it a trial."

Davis told the court that Loew's has sold 293 pictures to affiliated theatres under the competitive bidding method, and 414 pictures to independents in its experiments. He did not indicate whether the results were satisfactory to either the company or its customers.

Loew's Would Experiment

In response to a question by Justice Wiley Rutledge whether Loew's supported competitive bidding, Davis replied that Loew's favors further experimentation with the system and thinks that the decision as to its workability should be left to the lower court to decide on the basis of experience with it.

The 316 spectators' seats in the courtroom were fully occupied for the second consecutive day but a few vacant seats were to be seen as the session neared adjournment in the afternoon. Most of the industry attorneys who addressed the Court today wore the morning formal striped trousers and frock coats, which in an earlier day were traditional dress for barristers appearing before the Supreme Court but which in recent years are worn less frequently.

Whitney North Seymour, counsel for Paramount, followed Davis and put emphasis in his arguments upon Paramount's contention that it is unfairly penalized by the lower court decree ordering the sale or acquisition of more than five per cent or less than 95 per cent interest in theatres. Paramount not only has interests in more theatres than any other defendant but most of its interests are 50 per cent partnerships.

Seymour contended that the latter circumstance stems from the reorganization of Paramount in 1934, when the partnership deals were made, he said, for reasons dictated entirely by reorganization necessities.

"The court in effect has held," he said, "that if you always owned theatres 100 per cent that is all right, but if you disposed of part of that ownership during receivership, that is illegal now."

Seymour traced the origin of Paramount theatre acquisitions to "competitive reasons," adding that the company has acquired and operated theatres "competitively" since.

"In the period from 1916 to 1918," he said, "Paramount was forced with the choice of either going out of business or acquiring theatres. We are not opposed to dissolution of theatre pools with defendants but we are to the dissolution of partnerships with independents."

Questioned by Justice Stanley Reed as to what Paramount had been found guilty of by the lower court, Seymour replied: "Distribution conspiracies; none of which stemmed from the ownership of theatres."

That point was emphasized throughout the day by other counsel, who quoted from the opinion and decree of the New York court which held that the restraints found to be illegal were not traceable to theatre ownership. The eight Justices (Justice Robert Jackson disqualified himself) listened to the arguments with evident interest throughout the day, as they had on Monday, and testified to their close attention by putting penetrating questions or asking for clarification of trade terms and practices at frequent intervals.

Seymour concluded his 35-minute argument with a plea for an affirmative decree provision on partial ownership of theatres and with an objection to competitive bidding as an exclusive method of selling.

Auction Tests 'Inadequate'

He was followed by General William J. Donovan, counsel for RKO, who said that while that company had made about 200 experiments in competitive bidding sales, the experience has been insufficient for it to decide how the method would work nationally. Donovan contended that no violation of law has been found in RKO's acquisition of theatres; that, rather, the formation and development of the company added an important competitive element to production, distribution and exhibition.

He, too, made the point that the lower court had found only illegal trade practices and they were not the fault of theatre ownership.

"The situation would be the same if ownership of our theatres was transferred to independents," he said.

From his arguments against theatre divestiture, Donovan went on to plead for the right to theatre expansion in the future where such expansion did not lessen competition and was approved by the Court, "because no coercion or monopolization has been found in our operation of theatres," he said.

Ban Would 'Freeze' RKO

"Without the right to expand, RKO will be permanently frozen in an inferior position," Donovan told the Court.

He was questioned by Justices Frankfurter and Hugo Black on his stand on further expansion and insisted that it would be proper "on an affirmative showing that competition would not be restrained" as a result of such expansion.

Louis D. Frohlich, counsel for Columbia, argued for the right to continue block booking and to include minimum admissions in license agreements. He opposed competitive bidding on the ground that it was a legislative, rather than a judicial matter and contended the lower court lacked the power to order it as the sole method of selling.

"The Court," he said, "should restrict itself to enjoining and restraining."

He contended that there is no exhibitor testimony in the record of the case against block booking and argued that it does not constitute a "tie-in."

"The lower court had to get rid of block booking when it ordered competitive bidding," Frohlich said. "The two will not mix. But no case ever was made against block booking."

He contended an admission price clause in contracts is not "price fixing," but merely a statement of the minimum admissions ordinarily charged by theatres.

Frohlich charged that under competitive bidding exhibitors are invited to collusive action in the making of bids to their advantage and detrimental to distributors. They can agree among themselves not to bid or to hold down bids, he said.

Justice Rutledge questioned Frohlich on a contention that Columbia should not be penalized with other defendants because it had not itself practiced restraints found by the court. Justice Rutledge remarked that Columbia was found to be a part of the conspiracy and could be restrained with other defendants whether it had acted illegally or not. Frohlich had contended that the monopoly rights of copyright owners protected them from being compelled to sell in "an arbitrary manner."

Thomas Turner Cooke, counsel for Universal, followed Frohlich and argued against the inclusion of the company in any monopoly. He contended that Universal produced inferior pictures and could not monopolize the market with those. He told the Court that 58 per cent of Universal's revenue is derived from independent exhibitors; 42 per cent from the theatres of the five major companies.

"The Government never showed that we should have sold to independent first runs instead of affiliates," he said. "Nor did it show that any independent house offered us potentially the same or better revenue than an affiliated house."

Cooke opposed the decree's injunction against block booking, the invalidation of minimum admissions and claimed that uniformity in clearance schedules results not from distributor collusion but from exhibitor insistence upon obtaining the same clearance from one distributor that he has obtained from another.

Arguing that the decree permits the five major companies to sell to their own theatres on any terms they choose, Cooke was interrupted by Justice Reed, who pointed out that if they are at least 95 per cent owners of their theatres the manner in which they sell to

(*Continued on page* 7)

20 to 40-Day Delays In Meltzer Action

Chicago, Feb. 10.—Distributor and circuit defendants have been granted from 20 to 40 days in which to file answers in the $900,000 treble-damage suit brought by Saul Meltzer, owner of the Rivoli and Rockne Theatres here, in which he charges violations of the Jackson Park decree. Hearings are scheduled for March 1, 11 and 23 in Judge Igoe and Judge Sullivan's U. S. District courts, here.

Grosses Go Higher With Devonshire
JOHN MILLS - ROBERT NEWTON
"GREEN COCKATOO"
MURDER IN THE BIG CITY
Your Devonshire Man in Washington, D. C., is Teddy Shull
DEVONSHIRE FILM COMPANY
185 Devonshire Street Boston, Mass.

THE BANK OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
Bank of America
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

U.S. Case

(Continued from page 6)

them is immaterial, at least for the purpose of comparison with selling methods applied to theatres owned by others.

Edward C. Raftery, counsel for United Artists, the next to address the Court, emphasized the traditional nature of industry trade practices and the fact that the Government suit puts all [illegible] methods by which the industry h[illegible] one business to the test.

Raftery Recalls Tradition

United Artists, he said, has sold pictures singly since the inception of the company. It is traditional in show business to sell that way, he said, pointing out that before the motion picture became an industry, productions such as "Ziegfeld's Follies" and headline vaudeville acts appeared only at selected theatres and for a designated admission price.

Emphasizing the independence of United Artists, Raftery told the Court that the hardest task he had found in reading the Government's brief was discovering a mention of United Artists. He described U.A.'s selling procedures and contract terms, producing a contract for James Cagney's "Johnny Come Lately" (which he described as a good picture but not as good as the fine things like "Yankee Doodle," which Cagney made for Warners, before coming to U.A.). The contract was with Loew's in New York and called for 25 per cent of the gross and 50 per cent after house costs had been recouped.

"That's what the Government calls 'preferential terms'," Raftery observed.

He opposed the injunction against minimum admissions.

"As I understand you," Justice Frankfurter remarked, "you want to be taken out of the decree."

"Absolutely," Raftery replied. "We want to go home free."

He added that the biggest monopolist in the business is the man with a single theatre in a closed town. "He can leave the biggest distributor out entirely."

Raftery also advised the Court that many are waiting on this decree to come in "with treble damage actions."

Proskauer wound up the day's arguments. Disclaiming monopolistic activities for Warners, he said the company "breaks" even on its domestic distribution; get 30 per cent from the foreign market. Of its domestic revenue, he said, 14 per cent comes from its own theatres; 25 per cent from the theatres of the other four major companies, and 61 from independents, "whom we're charged with crushing."

Emphasizing that the trade practice restraints found by the lower court do not stem from theatre ownership, Proskauer said that block booking, for example, is unrelated to theatre ownership and its invalidation hurts the independent exhibitor "more than it hurts the distributor."

'Bureaucracy Hits Exhibitors'

"It is one of the penalties the exhibitor pays," he told the Court, "when business is regulated bureaucratically by people who haven't lived with it and don't understand it."

On competitive bidding, he said Warners is not advocating it "but is taking the dose the court prescribed to avert the divestiture sought by the Government."

"The guts of the case," Proskauer told the court, "is that defendants were trying to get the most revenue possible out of first runs. They are the revenue backlog that permits the companies to make pictures costing millions that have given America the film markets of the world.

"Why do we have to have destruction of our business? The lower court said divestiture would be injurious to the public. What law says," he asked, "that vertical integration, as such, can be struck down?"

Urges Video Aid

(Continued from page 1)

Skouras and Myron Blank, outlines the role to be played by the theatreman in the rise of video.

The committee urges that "theatre men, recognizing television's close kinship to the theatre, should join and, ideally, lead in the development of television facilities throughout the nation."

Asserting that "change and movement have always been inherent in the theatre business," with "static periods" being "periods of decline," the report takes the view that "the advent of television can be a new milestone in the theatre's dynamic history," but warns that "theatre men must work to make it so."

UA Set for a Year

(Continued from page 1)

ture waiting to be shown in Great Britain. It is "Mad Wednesday" (formerly "The Sin of Harold Diddlebock"). Also expected to be available during the year are "The Brass Monkey" and "William's Luck," both made in England for UA release by Coplan and a group headed by Alf Shipman of Alliance Studios.

Nat'l TOA Council

(Continued from page 1)

lard, Butterfield Circuit, Michigan; Leonard Rosenthal, TOA of Albany; Albert Bernstein, Wometco Theatres, Florida; Robert Barton, Virginia Theatre Owners Association; Sydney Grossman, MPTO of New York State; J. Stites, Kentucky Theatre Owners Association, and Philip Harling, Fabian Theatres.

See TOA Opposing

(Continued from page 1)

producers rates seven or eight times as great as those which they recently asked of exhibitors.

Moreover, TOA feels that producers will be able to pass on the increases in the form of higher rentals, and will not have any great stake in putting up a strong battle against Ascap. Finally, one TOA official here said, "Once this matter is pushed into Hollywood, Ascap would be dealing with eight large companies, four of which have a big interest in Ascap."

Allied on Ascap

(Continued from page 1)

in the Government anti-trust suit is faithfully carried out and to protect the interests of independent exhibitors."

After that, the board will decide whether Allied should take a stand for or against the Motion Picture Foundation and whether Myers, Allied's chairman and general counsel, should serve as MPF trustee-at-large.

Other matters on the agenda include an election of officers, and members of the executive and Caravan committees.

The meeting will also set a time and place for the spring and fall board meetings and receive and act on bids for the 1948 convention.

Woods Asks Control Of Theatre Building

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Continued Government control of theatre and other amusement construction was unexpectedly recommended to President Truman today by Housing Expediter Tighe Woods.

He warned that home building would suffer if non-residential construction expanded unduly this year. Most observers on Capitol Hill, however, think that the damage to the limitation order has already been done by Woods, who in testimony before both the House and Senate Banking and Currency Committees was decidedly lukewarm in his support of the amusement curbs. He admitted before both groups that the volume involved was "insignificant" and that there was no way of knowing if the materials saved went into housing.

'Photoplay' Awards

(Continued from page 1)

author, respectively, of "The Jolson Story."

The Gallup organization's findings lists the following as the next most popular pictures in 1947:

"The Best Years of Our Lives," Samuel Goldwyn Productions; "Welcome Stranger," Paramount; "It's A Wonderful Life," RKO Radio; "The Yearling," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; "Dear Ruth," Paramount; "Boomerang," 20th-Century-Fox; "Blue Skies," Paramount; "The Egg and I," Universal; "The Farmer's Daughter," RKO Radio; "Margie," 20th-Century-Fox.

The actresses and actors following Bergman and Crosby in popularity are listed alphabetically below:

June Allyson, Bette Davis, Greer Garson, Rita Hayworth, and Humphrey Bogart, Gary Cooper, Alan Ladd, Gregory Peck.



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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 30 YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1948 TEN CENTS

'Still in Dead Center on UK Tax': Johnston

Allport En Route to UK Without Alternate Plan

Fayette W. Allport, Motion Picture Association of America's European representative, is aboard the *SS Queen Elizabeth* bound for England, following two weeks of *ad valorem* conferences here with MPAA and company officials, and is bringing back with him no specific instructions for reopening tax settlement talks with the British, Eric A. Johnston, MPAA president, said here.

Describing the British UK tax and the U. S. impasse as "still at dead center," Johnston declined to conjecture as to which side would take the next step toward reaching a solution. Allport, he pointed out, will stand ready to receive instructions from here, if and when American industry leaders evolve a new settlement proposal. He indicated, too, that Allport would

(*Continued on page* 4)

US Permits Sweden To Limit Imports

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The United States has given Sweden permission to limit imports from the U. S. by suspending until June 30, 1948 an agreement which provided for Sweden to maintain imports from this country at the rate of 150 per cent of the 1946 volume. Sweden has also been permitted to delay dollar payments to American firms for a "reasonable period" without definition of the duration.

Further negotiations will get under way soon to allow Sweden to curb American imports for the duration of the dollar deficit.

Agreement Nears On Exchange Wages

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Commissioner L. A. Stone has withdrawn from bargaining sessions between the IATSE and the film companies' exchange representatives here at the request of both sides on the premise that a mutually satisfactory agreement on cost-of-living wage increases for more than 6,000 workers in 32 exchange centers could be

(*Continued on page* 4)

Dominions Consider US Dollar Controls

London, Feb. 12.—A. Creech Jones, Colonial Secretary, was questioned in the House of Commons as to what arrangements had been made in each of the principal British colonies to deal with the problems of the dollar cost of American films consequent upon the dollar crisis. He replied that the matter is still under consideration and he is not yet in a position to make a statement on it.

Mexico Will Not Curb Remittances

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 12.—Mexico will not curb dollar exports of American or other foreign film distributors operating in this country.

Those in the trade who feared enactment soon of restrictions on remittances have been relieved by the Ministry of Finance's assurance that no such action will be taken because Mexico's stock of dollars and general monetary situation are satisfactory, adding that a ban on remittances would amount to national economic suicide. The Ministry also explained that any dwindling dollar stock is being stemmed by banning many imports.

Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela are the only Latin American countries that still allow the free outward flow of money.

The Ministry further explained that any remittance restriction would reduce tourists, who have become important to Mexico. American visitors alone spent about $125,000,000 in this country last year.

A Ministry official added that such restrictions would throw Mexican economy out of gear.

Roy E. Martin, Sr. Dies in Plane Crash

ATLANTA, Feb. 12.—Roy E. Martin, Sr., 60, head of Martin Theatres circuit, was killed in a plane crash in the Bay of St. Louis yesterday while piloting his own plane en route to his headquarters in Columbus, Ga., from New Orleans. The body was discovered after 12 hours.

The circuit bearing his name and consisting of approximately 100 theatres, extends through Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

U. S. CLAIMS PARA. THEATRES POOLED

RKO Directors Talk Hughes Deal in Calif.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—A number of directors of RKO, including board members representing Lehman Bros., are conferring at Floyd B. Odlum's ranch near Indio on the possibility of a sale of Atlas Corporation's majority interest in RKO to Howard Hughes. The meetings today gave added weight to the impression held in informed quarters that the deal is close to finalization.

Little precise information appeared available in New York yesterday. One authoritative source pointed this out: "Atlas' controlling stock interest in RKO is up for sale. Who gets it and on what terms is essentially a matter of price satisfactory to Floyd Odlum. It may be Howard Hughes, who certainly is negotiating, and it may not."

Yates' Trucolor Now Available to Others

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—Trucolor process, used heretofore only by Herbert J. Yates' Republic Pictures, and controlled by Yates, has been made available to other producers. It was first used in Republic's "Out in California Way," a late 1946 release. Republic will use Trucolor on at least 13 of its 1947-48 productions.

Price of Trucolor to outside producers is six cents per foot, which compares with Technicolor's 6.22 cents a foot, and Cinecolor's 5.92 cents. Yates states that producers using the Trucolor process will be required to produce at Republic studio, so that the processing can be done by Trucolor-trained personnel.

L. J. Schlaifer to Aid Heineman

L. J. (Jack) Schlaifer has resigned as director of sales for Allied Artists-Monogram to assume the newly-created post of assistant to Eagle-Lion distribution vice-president William J. Heineman. Schlaifer's E-L appointment was announced on Wednesday by Heineman, whose resignation as sales

(*Continued on page* 4)

Wright Follows Byrnes As Arguments End in Anti-Trust Suit Appeal

By SHERWIN KANE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — The Government regards Paramount's theatre partnerships as "pools," declared illegal by the New York Federal expediting court, and is opposed to the decree provision which would permit the company to acquire interests of 95 per cent or more and retain such theatres, Robert L. Wright, assistant to the Attorney General, told the U. S. Supreme Court here yesterday during argument of appeals in the Government anti-trust suit against the eight major companies.

The appeal arguments were concluded at 3:23 P.M., Wednesday, the third day of the hearings, and the case was taken under advisement by the high court.

A decision is expected in late May or early June, prior to the Court's adjournment for the summer, although a crowded calendar at that time could result in the Court deferring its decision until the October, 1948, term. Indications are that decisions in the Government's anti-trust suits against the Schine and Griffith circuits may be handed down at approximately the same time as the New York decision. The Court has the two latter cases under consideration now.

The final day of the appeals hearings was opened by former Supreme Court Justice James F. Byrnes, ap-

(*Continued on page* 3)

Industry Leaders Aid NCCJ Lunch

Some 33 industry leaders will assist the three film chairmen on "Brotherhood Week" at the eighth annual luncheon of the amusement division of the National Conference of Christians and Jews at the Hotel Astor, here, on Feb. 24, it was announced by David Weinstock, chairman of the campaign committee; J. Robert Rubin, vice-president of Loew's, national chairman of the amusements division, and Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Cen-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Personal Mention

J. CHEEVER COWDIN, NATE J. BLUMBERG, JOSEPH H. SEIDELMAN, CHARLES PRUTZMAN and ROBERT S. BENJAMIN sailed on the *SS Queen Elizabeth* Wednesday from New York for conferences with J. ARTHUR RANK in London.

•

PHIL WILLIAMS, acting president of the AMPA, and a member of *Fortune* magazine's staff, has returned to New York from Wilkes Barre, Pa., where he addressed the local advertising club on "What Good Advertising Means."

•

JIMMY DURANTE will be honored by the Mt. Sinai Medical Center of Duarte, Cal., on Feb. 25 at a testimonial dinner at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles.

•

E. W. MCCLELLAN, JR., Westrex assistant chief of engineering, will leave New York Monday on a trip to North Africa and the Orient.

•

JOSEPH S. BOYLE, manager of the Broadway Theatre, New Haven, is observing his 20th anniversary with the Loew-Poli circuit.

•

J. J. UNGER, United Artists general sales manager, has returned to New York from Washington.

•

WILLIAM C. SMALLEY, president of Smalley Theatres, Cooperstown, N. Y., is vacationing in Miami.

•

JOSEPH S. HUMMEL, Warner manager for Continental Europe, is in town from Paris.

•

OTTO PREMINGER, producer-director, is here from Hollywood.

•

FRED ZINNEMAN, M-G-M director, is due here tomorrow from the Coast.

Democrats Name Sauter Film Chief

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — James Sauter, New York radio production executive, has been named chairman of the screen, stage, radio and television division of the Democratic National Committee for the 1948 campaign.

During the war years, Sauter was executive director of the United Theatrical War Activities Committee and official of several other organizations providing entertainment for servicemen and veterans. He now is Deputy Commissioner of Commerce for New York City.

Golden in Deal for One Through S. R. O.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—David O. Selznick has turned over his "What Every Young Bride Should Know" story property to Golden Productions, which will produce it for release through the Selznick Releasing Organization. Shirley Temple and John Agar, her husband, will star.

News Briefs . . .

Mason-Rose Trial Enters Second Day Here Today

Trial of the breach-of-contract suits which actor James Mason and producer David Rose instituted against each other will go into its second day today before Federal Judge John C. Knox in U. S. District Court here. The hearing opened on Wednesday with Mason as the only witness. Under direct questioning by his attorney Louis Frohlich, of the law firm of Schwartz and Frohlich, Mason testified that the memorandum agreement of June 5, 1946, between him and Rose did not bind the actor to make pictures for companies other than the one which he and Rose had intended to form in the U. S. Rose sued Mason when the latter refused to enter a deal with Paramount, and Mason in turn sued to have the agreement voided. Trial is expected to go into Monday.

Hollywood AFL Film Council Will Not Recognize 'Red' Sympathizers

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—The Hollywood AFL Film Council, formed several months ago, and "designed to promote closer unity and cooperation in and between its affiliates in the industry and to promote harmonious relations with employers," has released copies of its constitution and bylaws, and among the restrictions on membership, it declares it will not recognize members who "participate in the proceedings of any meeting or in any organization or activity connected with or sympathetic to Communism or Fascism."

Films Will Not Figure in California 'Red' Probe

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 12.—An undetermined number of film persons are among 40 subpoenaed yesterday by the California Un-American Activities Committee hearings which will start Tuesday morning. Links between the Communist Party and Communist-front organizations are to be studied. There will be no emphasis on the motion picture industry at this time, according to the committee chairman.

Irving Shiffrin of RKO Radio Publicity Staff Here, Resigns

Irving Shiffrin, RKO Radio Eastern publicity department general and fan magazine contact, will leave his post under Rutgers Neilson tomorrow.

Shiffrin joined RKO Radio 15 years ago, as assistant to Sam Warshawsky, general press representative, and later assumed the same post with Neilson.

Max Hadfield Heads SRO Branch In Seattle; McKean with SRO

SEATTLE, Feb. 12.—Max Hadfield has been named manager of the Seattle branch of Selznick Releasing Organization, by Herbert Kaufman, Western district manager for SRO.

Kaufman also named John McKean, formerly with Jensen and Von Herberg, to the position of head booker for SRO here.

Capital Theatres in Drive To Conserve Oil for Heating

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Theatres in the District of Columbia have started a voluntary fuel-oil conservation campaign to avoid a drastic curtailment threatened by the District's oil coordinator as a result of the oil shortage, according to A. Julian Brylawski, head of the local Theatre Owners of America.

Brylawski said only prompt action by the TOA postponed the District order. He said theatres would not curtail hours but would cut down on heat and push other conservation measures for the duration of the shortage.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12.—Theatres were warned by Brenton G. Wallace, state fuel coordinator, to reduce use of fuel oil or face a mandatory curtailment of supplies.

Wallace's statement pointed out that failure to comply voluntarily might make it necessary to declare a state of emergency and cut off all supplies.

Two-Reeler to Tell the 20-Year Story of the Academy Awards

RKO Radio will present "Twenty Years of Academy Awards," two-reeler produced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Covering the entire award picture from 1927 up to and including the 1947 winners, the picture will be released about April 1, with all net proceeds going to the Academy. Harry Michalson, RKO Radio short subjects sales manager, said that the film will be distributed as an industry good-will gesture.

Italian Newsreels to Be Released In the U. S. Every Second Week

First Italian newsreel to arrive in America since 1940 has been brought here by Best Films and is simultaneously being shown at the Cinemas Dante and Verdi, here, featuring the latest pictures of the Pope, the Rome strike, and other items. Max Chic, president of Best Films, has arranged with Incom, Inc., Italian newsreel company, for a reel to arrive in New York every two weeks by air.

Schmidt Due Over Weekend; To Replace Ben Serkowich

Art Schmidt, formerly Columbia's advertising counsel in Hollywood, will arrive here this weekend to replace Ben Serkowich who recently resigned as Columbia's director in charge of advertising-publicity.

New Schine Radio Company

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Organization, under control of the Schine interests, of Pattroon Broadcasting Corp., which will operate station WPTR, has been completed here. J. Meyer Schine is president; attorney Harold Blodgett, Schenectady, is vice-president; Louis W. Schine is treasurer; Willard McKay, general counsel of Schine, and John May, Schine comptroller, were named to the board of directors.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK - Ann TODD - Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN - Ethel BARRYMORE
and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present Argosy Pictures'
THE FUGITIVE
HENRY FONDA · DOLORES DEL RIO · PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
Directed by JOHN FORD
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
VICTORIA Broadway at 46th St.

BURT LANCASTER
LIZABETH SCOTT
in HAL WALLIS' production
"I WALK ALONE" A Paramount Picture
In Person ANDY RUSSELL HELEN FORREST DICK WESSON HACK & DESMOND and JERRY WALD AND HIS ORCHESTRA
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DANA ANDREWS · MERLE OBERON · ETHEL BARRYMORE
in A JOHN CROMWELL PRODUCTION
'NIGHT SONG
with HOAGY CARMICHAEL

JEANNE CRAIN · DAN DAILEY
"YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE
LOUIS ARMSTRONG · FRED ROBBINS
JACK TEAGARDEN · EARL HINES
Extra! ROBERT LAMOURET
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR 20th CENTURY-FOX 7th Ave. & 47th St.

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Plan Foreign Film Video Broadcasts

Distinguished Films, distributor of foreign films in the U. S., and National Broadcasting are discussing the possibility of telecasting over the latter's video stations dubbed versions of foreign films, it has been disclosed here by Distinguished's vice-president, Oliver Unger, who said the introduction of dubbed foreign films to television may serve the video broadcasters with a solution to their inability to secure other feature films.

First experiment in this connection will be the French-made "Torrent," which Unger acquired for U. S. distribution while he was in France recently. Picture is now being dubbed in English in France, he said, and would be released for television following regular theatrical release in the U. S. Unger returned here last week from a three-week tour of Europe. While in London he made arrangements, he said, for the British premiere of "The Roosevelt Story," which he co-produced and which is being released by United Artists. It will open, he said, on April 12 at Loew's Empire, London.

Columbia Set for 'Montague' Drive

Six groups, comprising all 31 of Columbia's domestic sales branches, have been formed to compete in the "Montague Sales and Liquidation Drive," current sales campaign which ends June 24. All members of the field sales force are participating in the drive.

Films either currently in release or scheduled for release prior to June 24 are: "The Swordsman," "It Had to Be You," "I Love Trouble," "Prince of Thieves," "To the Ends of the Earth," "Relentless," "The Sign of the Ram," "The Lady from Shanghai," "The Black Arrow," "The Mating of Millie" and "The Fuller Brush Man."

National Theatres To Use Ad Films

Los Angeles, Feb. 12.—National Theatres' 575 houses are being opened to advertising films, with an eight-minute Chesterfield Cigarette subject the first to be used. Fifty Cinecolor subjects have been ordered by Liggett and Myers, with the start in the circuit's theatres expected in mid-March. Thornton Sargent, assistant to Charles Skouras, will have charge of the ad-films.

The innovation is contemplated as a permanent addition to the circuit's activities.

NOW READY FOR BOOKING!
ITALIAN NEWSREEL
PRODUCED BY INCOM
Italy's Foremost Newsreel
Released Every Two Weeks
Wire or Write Immediately
BEST FILMS CORPORATION
10 W. 47th St., New York 19, N. Y.

U. S. Case

(Continued from page 1)

pearing as counsel for 20th Century-Fox, who addressed the Court for 35 minutes. Wright followed with a one-hour argument and assistant Attorney General John F. Sonnett, head of the anti-trust division, used the final hour.

The court room, which accommodates 316 spectators, was filled to near capacity for the third successive day. The eight Justices who heard the arguments displayed lively interest throughout, questioning Byrnes and the Government attorneys frequently.

Asks Arbitration Stay

Byrnes made an extended argument for continuation of industry arbitration, which is opposed by the Government, although it was urged upon the litigants by the New York court. Arbitration had been championed only once before during the hearings. That was by Joseph M. Proskauer, counsel for Warners, who was the last to address the Court on Tuesday.

Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter asked Byrnes if the lower court thought it lacked the power to order arbitration continued in the face of the Government's opposition. When informed by Byrnes that the New York court had taken that position, Justice Frankfurter asked: "Then do we have that power?"

Byrnes said he believed the high Court could order the system to be maintained and that any exhibitors who wanted to make use of it could do so voluntarily. The existence of the arbitration system, Byrnes said, is not urged as a substitute for any who wished to approach the Department of Justice or to bring litigation themselves.

Subsequently, Justice Frankfurter questioned Wright closely on the Government's opposition to maintenance of industry arbitration, saying "I want all the light I can get on the subject."

Wright told the Court that arbitration was part of the 1940 consent decree, and when the decree ended arbitration had "to go out with it." Wright added that the record of the case showed the Government felt the results of industry arbitration were "unsatisfactory."

Divorcement 'Not a Remedy'

Reiterating the point made by other counsel that the trade practices found to be illegal by the lower court, and enjoined by it, did not have their genesis in theatre ownership, Byrnes contended that theatre divestiture, therefore, "is not a proper remedy here, as the lower court has held."

"The transfer of ownership of affiliated theatres to independents with multi-buying power would not provide a remedy and would solve nothing," Byrnes said.

Arguing that the lower court had not found a monopoly among the defendants, he said: "The Government's imagination has created a synthetic monopoly out of five competitors. This case is not like the Standard Oil or aluminum cases, where independents were acquired to form a monopoly."

He told the Court there had been an increase of 4,000 independent theatres during the life of the suit, "whereas the symptom of a monopoly, if one existed, would be decreasing competition. Another symptom would be increased admissions, and there is no evidence here of inflationary prices."

Says Theatres Are Competitive

Answering the Government's charge that affiliated circuits have been acquired in a "geographical pattern" so that one company would not compete with another in entire sections of the country, Byrnes said that existing circuits were acquired by the companies in the 1920's and were regionally located. The acquisitions, he said, were not limited to specific regions and all compete with other theatres.

Byrnes closed his argument by citing the current economic condition of the industry, particularly with respect to foreign markets. "The industry today has its back to the wall, fighting for its existence," he said. "It is proper for the Court to consider this. The Voice of America (Government foreign radio broadcasts) does not reach anywhere near the number of people abroad that our films do."

Following Byrnes, Wright attacked the New York decree provision which permits defendants to acquire additional interests in partially owned theatres, and contended that the Paramount partnerships actually are pools. Earlier, Paramount counsel had argued that its theatres never have had the chance to prove that they are not in restraint of trade. Justice Frankfurter had remarked to that: "You can go back to the Court on that." The New York court retained jurisdiction in the case.

Wright Hits Expansion

Wright told the Court that the decree, in permitting further theatre "expansion," ignores the findings in the New York case.

Questioned by Associate Justice Stanley Reed on the Government's allegations concerning regional theatre ownership, Wright admitted there was nothing in the record to substantiate the charge that it resulted from design or conspiracy but argued that the "inference" that such was the case is "fair."

"Are we to consider this relevant or irrelevant?" Reed asked.

Answering Proskauer's charge of the previous day that the Government itself is the parent of competitive bidding, which the Government now opposes, Wright said the Government merely asked for an opportunity for each film, as well as each theatre, "to compete" and that it did not ask specifically for competitive bidding when the suggestion was made that films could be "placed on the auction block."

"You were just using a general term?" Justice William Douglas remarked.

Justice Frankfurter queried Wright on what the record shows concerning uniformity of prices following circuit acquisitions, and was told that "there is nothing on that, one way or the other, I believe. However, I can give you the Congressional record on the subject," Wright offered.

"The record in this case is enough for me," Justice Frankfurter replied.

Sonnett Last to Speak

Sonnett, last to address the Court, extended the Government's arguments for divorcement and a ban on cross-licensing.

He contended that the findings justify a conclusion that a monopoly exists. He claimed the findings show "a record of discrimination against independents" and that the defendants' "combination of power in distribution and exhibition permits them to exclude competition."

"And they have so used that power," he charged. "We rely on that to show we have a monopoly here."

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson questioned Sonnett on minimum admission prices. After Sonnett had attempted to explain what use had been made of minimum admission clauses in contracts, the Chief Justice remarked: "That doesn't answer my question."

Justices Douglas, Frankfurter, Reed and Frank Murphy questioned Sonnett at intervals on cross-licensing. The questions were directed largely at obtaining additional information on the subject and determining whether the Government believed cross-licensing involved the public interest. Sonnett said the Government believes it does.

"Do you want a ban on cross-licensing even if you have competitive bidding?" Justice Reed asked.

Sonnett replied in the affirmative.

Reiterates Divestiture Plea

He argued that the findings justify a conclusion of "conspiracy to monopolize" and told the Court that divorcement is the only remedy for what the Government claims to be a "fusion of distribution and exhibition power."

The Big Five had argued that the findings do not warrant divestiture and that they should be permitted to expand theatre holdings on affirmative showing that competition would not be restrained as a result.

The Little Three, in effect, argued for release from the lower court's injunctions in all major respects, but particularly as to block booking, minimum admissions, clearance and run. They also opposed competitive bidding which the Big Five said they had not asked for but was willing to experiment with.

Sergei Eisenstein, 50, Soviet Film Producer

Sergei Eisenstein, 50, well-known Soviet motion picture producer and director, died in the U. S. S. R. on Tuesday, according to press dispatches reaching here yesterday.

Eisenstein gained international fame in the cinematic field following his first major film, "Potemkin," in 1926, and in 1930 he joined the Paramount-Famous-Lasky company in America where he was associated with the production of two films. When he returned to his homeland subsequently, he produced such films as "Alexander Nevsky" and "Ivan the Terrible."

Stephen M. Avery, 54

Hollywood, Feb. 12. — Stephen Morehouse Avery, 54, scenario writer, died Tuesday at his home here following a heart attack. He was born on Dec. 20, 1893, in Webster Grove, Mo. Among his screenplays were "The Male Animal," "The Gorgeous Hussy," "Four Mothers" and "One Rainy Afternoon."

Funeral arrangements have not been set since the widow is touring Switzerland. A daughter and two brothers also survive.

Rex Hevel, Exhibitor

Portland, Ore., Feb. 12.—Rex R. Hevel, 53, owner of the Empire Theatre in Teokoa, Wash., died here of a heart attack. He had been in the industry since 1924.

Schwalberg Seen Joining Paramount

Alfred W. Schwalberg, who withdraws as Eagle-Lion's general sales manager today, will become associated with Paramount next week as assistant to Charles M. Reagan, sales vice-president, it is understood.

Reagan was out of town and could not be reached for a statement, other Paramount executives were unable to comment, and Schwalberg declined to confirm or deny the report.

Schwalberg joined Eagle-Lion a year ago. Prior to that he was with International Pictures, with which he became identified after a long period as head of Warner Brothers' exchange operations.

Schwalberg to Be Feted at Sherry Netherland Tonight

A. W. Schwalberg, who leaves Eagle-Lion today, will be feted at a dinner at the Sherry Netherland Hotel here tonight. Among those invited were:

Arthur B. Krim, Bryan Foy, William J. Heineman, C. Warren Sharpe, Max E. Youngstein, Harold Dunn, Al Suchman, Herman Beiersdorf, Sam L. Seidelman, Nick Tronolone, James King, Jerome Edwards, Jock Lawrence, Jerry Dale, Seymour Peyser, Harry Kosiner, Monroe Greenthal, Charles Amory, David Griesdorf, N. A. Taylor.

Also Al Herman, Tom Donaldson, Grover Parsons, Edward Heiber, Beverly Miller, Clair Hilgers, Joe Minsky, Seymour Schussel, William Feld, Sam Milner, Del Goodman, Lou Wechsler, Jack Bellman, Frank Soule, E. G. Goodman, Joe Sugar, Ed Levy, Neil Astrin, Murray Kaplan, Frank Heffernan, Jerry Pickman, Arthur Jeffrey, Hal Danson, Lige Brien, Leo Brody, Jonas Arnold, Bob Hadley, Mike Hoffay.

232 Theatres Are in Albany Exchange

There are 232 theatres with a seating capacity of 152,506 in the Albany territory, according to the Albany theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of America has released.

The 26th in a series of 31, the directory reveals that there are 45 theatres with a capacity of 51,830 in the area's four largest cities: Albany, Utica, Schenectady and Troy.

Average capacity of theatres in Albany and Utica is 1,254; 106 theatres in 105 towns with a population of 2,500 and under average 332 seats.

NCCJ Luncheon

(*Continued from page* 1)

tury-Fox, national chairman of the motion picture division.

Speakers will be Daniel A. Poling, editor and publisher of the *Christian Herald;* Reverend Robert I. Gannon, S.J., president of Fordham University, and Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman, author of "Peace of Mind."

Assisting the three chairmen will be Barney Balaban, Harry Brandt, Max A. Cohen, Jack Cohn, Ned E. Depinet, Simon H. Fabian, Roger Ferri, Emil Friedlander, Ted Gamble, William J. German, John Golden, Leonard H. Goldenson, Harry Greenman, Oscar Hammerstein, Will H. Hays, Harry Kalmine, Malcolm Kingsberg, Jack Kirsch, Barret McCormick, Dan Michalove, Robert Mochrie, Louis Nizer, Brock Pemberton, N. Peter Rathvon, Herman Robbins, Montague Salmon, Charles Schlaifer, Al Schwalberg, Silas F. Seadler, Sam Shain, Benjamin Sherman, Joseph R. Vogel and Albert Warner.

Reviews

"Three Daring Daughters"

(*Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer*)

OFF the screen since 1942 and "I Married An Angel" and "Cairo," Jeanette MacDonald now returns in a happy, wholesome attraction which spells good news for a large number of exhibitors. "Three Daring Daughters" is full of the particular brand of pleasant flavor which producer Joe Pasternak achieves when he reaches his stride.

It is impossible to determine which of the four writers of the original screenplay is chiefly responsible, if any single one is. Albert Mannheimer, Frederick Kohner, Sonya Levine and John Meehan, the accredited authors, we suspect did this one to Pasternak's order, making room for the charm and the chuckles without ever closing the door to music and song.

Because Miss MacDonald is a singer, she sings—and very well. Because Jane Powell, youngster with an unusual voice for her extreme youth, can reach the high notes with distinction, she gets ample opportunity as well. Because Jose Iturbi, whose reputation as concert pianist and symphonic conductor needs no gilding here, is adept at both, he is very much in on the show. Moreover, this is aside from his surprisingly good performance as an actor who meets, woos and weds the divorced Miss MacDonald and has a whale of a time making himself acceptable to her three daring daughters. Miss Powell is one, the delightful Ann E. Todd is the other and rascally Mary Eleanor Donahue is the third.

Like practically all of Pasternakiana, "Three Daring Daughters" does not rely on story substance although this time the slight tale unfolded is more than adequate for its surrounding trappings. The three youngsters, brought up to regard their divorced father was quite a guy, determine to end what they believe is their mother's unhappiness by the reconciliation route. This involves newspaper tycoon Edward Arnold who agrees to return the errant reporter-father to the hearth. Meanwhile, Miss MacDonald, ordered to Cuba to recover her health, meets Iturbi who romances her with gallantry and humor. They marry, return to New York where the daughters decide they have been hoodwinked. The rest of the plot divulges in much amusing detail how the situation is straightened out to the happiness of all principals concerned.

It does not sound like much story. Actually, it isn't. But by treatment, incidents, little touches and quite an expert blending of 17 vocal numbers, piano concerts and full orchestral pieces, the end result is extremely good entertainment. Corn is never completely absent; in fact, the attraction would be less repetitive if the shears had been applied liberally. Yet, as it stands, this reviewer takes it and believes audiences-at-large will readily go along.

Miss MacDonald fares fortunately in Technicolor which shows her coloring to advantage. Production values are at Metro's lush level. Fred M. Wilcox's direction is nicely keyed and reflects confidence and craftsmanship.

Running time, 115 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March, 1948.

RED KANN

"The Pearl"

(*RKO Radio*)

THE screen version of John Steinbeck's Mexican folk tale, "The Pearl," is deliberately-paced, yet strangely haunting and beautiful. Produced in Mexico, it has been given imaginative photography and glows with symbolism and imagery. Insofar as its cast goes, it does not have any particularly exploitable names. But the acting is so splendid in its unadorned simplicity, and the direction so intelligent, that the discriminating filmgoer should not fail to see it. The picture will also delight those who welcome something that is fresh and departs from time-honored, standard stories.

The legend is one that has been passed on for many generations by the natives of Lower California. It tells of a Mexican peon fisherman who found a large and priceless pearl. He envisioned in the pearl the promise of a better life, education for his infant son, and shoes for his wife. But the pearl became the villain of his life. It lured him into murder when thieves attempted to steal it. Others conspired to cheat him, and evil circled all around him. In well-cadenced sequences, the simple peon with his wife and child attempt to flee from the community, but greed follows them, and finally even the child is murdered. Eventually the peon returns to his community, hurls the pearl into the sea whence it came, and again becomes reintegrated into his social class.

Emilio Fernandez's direction brings out characterizations that are real, and the pitiable situations into which the people are thrown are believable. Pedro Armendariz, who will be remembered for his role as the officer in "The Fugitive," portrays the fisherman, with Maria Elena Marques as his slave-like wife. An F.A.M.A. Aguila Films production, the screenplay was done by Steinbeck, Fernandez and Jack Wagner. Oscar Dancigers produced.

Running time, 77 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

To NBC Post Here

Carleton D. Smith, general manager of NBC's Washington radio station WRC and television station WNBW, has been appointed manager of the NBC television department in New York, by Noran E. Kersta, director of television operations.

Bamberger Named

Leon J. Bamberger, sales promotion manager of RKO Radio, has been named chairman of the Motion Picture Associates' public relations committee set up to familiarize the industry with the work of that charitable organization.

U. K. Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

be prepared to enter into any new talks initiated by the British.

Johnston voiced his appraisal of the status of the British tax situation in a press interview which followed his guest appearance on station WOR's Martha Deane radio program Wednesday. Answering questions put by Miss Deane, Johnston reviewed the British tax for the radio audience and pointed up the U. S. industry's willingness to arrive at a settlement which would be fair to both sides.

Touching upon other industry matters, Johnston told his listeners that pictures of greater realistic substance will be forthcoming from Hollywood, that the industry will turn out more good pictures in 1948 than it did in 1947 because the work of many of Hollywood's better writers, directors, actors and producers who were in the war, this year will be reaching the screen for the first time since the war began. He said he believes television will stimulate rather than adversely affect motion pictures.

During the broadcast, Johnston reiterated his contention that the Un-American Activities Committee probe of Hollywood will not serve to inhibit the producers' freedom to make the kind of pictures they have been making. The MPAA, he said, will not succumb to pressure from either the "right" or the "left."

Johnston held that taxes such as the one which the British have imposed on U. S. films is contrary to worldwide efforts toward establishing freer trade among nations and warned that it might ultimately be applied to other U. S. products. He characterized the industry's efforts against it as a battle being fought in behalf of U. S. export trade.

L. J. Schlaifer

(*Continued from page* 1)

manager of the J. Arthur Rank division of Universal, to permit him to take over his E-L duties, will become effective Sunday.

In his new position, Schlaifer will work directly under Heineman in the over-all operation of E-L's distribution. A veteran distribution executive, Schlaifer entered the industry in 1912, when he joined Warner's Minneapolis exchange, and at various times was a Universal exchange manager, division manager and general sales manager; assistant general sales manager of United Artists, and 20th-Fox's Central sales manager. In 1941 he resigned as a UA vice-president to become vice-president of Edward Small Productions. He resigned his 20th-Fox post in 1945 to join AA-Monogram as sales director.

Exchange Wages

(*Continued from page* 1)

reached at continuing sessions without the aid of Federal mediation.

This was disclosed here on Wednesday by the "IA," whose national exchange contracts, which run until Nov., 1948, were reopenable last Dec. 1 for adjustment of wages and hours. Negotiations began on Nov. 17, following a poll in which the "IA" exchange locals voted to have the bargaining conducted by the general office.

Another bargaining session is expected to take place at the Warner home office here within a week.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 31 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1948 TEN CENTS

Theatre Takes Started Year On Upgrade

But January's Weekly Average Trails 1947

Key-city theatre grosses last month effected a sharp comeback from December's low and could have made a better showing, perhaps, if severe winter weather had not posed such challenging obstacles. Exceptionally low temperatures and record and near-record blizzards hit many sections of the country.

The weekly average for January rose to $16,392, from December's $14,178, but was well behind the $18,859 recorded for January of last year, according to reports from *Motion Picture Daily* field correspondents.

First 10 days of 1948 brought excellent business to theatres almost everywhere, but during the last half of January heavy snows and frigid weather brought a pronounced drop in grosses.

"Road to Rio" took the box-office lead last month, with "Good News" second. Tied for third were "Captain

(*Continued on page* 6)

Britain to Make 60 Films in '48: Korda

Some 60 to 70 features will be made in England during the coming year, Sir Alexander Korda declared in a press interview here on Friday.

Pointing out that British producers are "not in a position to fulfill all the needs of British theatres for the present," Korda added that the *ad valorem* tax was "not something that anybody wants or enjoys," but that it springs from dire necessity. He expressed hope that a solution will be found.

Korda asserted that his London

(*Continued on page* 6)

KATO to Abandon Anti-Checker Bill

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 15.—The Kentucky Association of Motion Picture Theatres has announced that it would withdraw its sponsorship of the so-called Board bill, scheduled for introduction in the Kentucky Legislature this term, which provides for a state

(*Continued on page* 6)

Scully Urges New Films Be Previewed

Opening the last of a series of regional meetings at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria yesterday, W. A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager of Universal-International, emphasized the concentrated release of top-budget pictures which the company will distribute and urged exhibitors to see them before buying or booking them.



W. A. Scully

In opening the meeting, Scully emphasized that U-I has made the largest negative investment in its history in these pictures and that, in his opinion, they represent the most varied and showman-like program the company has ever had.

He expressed a note of optimism in

(*Continued on page* 3)

E-L to Release 10 In March, April

Eagle-Lion will release six features in March and four in April, William J. Heineman, distribution vice-president, announced at a two-day sales meeting here of home office executives and district managers at the Hotel Warwick, Saturday and yesterday.

Following his welcome by president Arthur B. Krim into the Eagle-Lion family, Heineman, formerly sales ntanager of Universal's J. Arthur Rank division, presided at the meeting. He outlined sales policies on

(*Continued on page* 6)

Schwalberg to Para. As Aide to Reagan

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount's distribution vice-president, confirmed on Friday that Alfred W. Schwalberg, who recently resigned as Eagle-Lion's general sales manager, had joined the company.

Reagan said that Schwalberg's association with the company as executive assistant to him would promote "a streamlined and more efficient operation for Paramount," with "a resultant improvement in service to the thousands of Paramount customers throughout the country."

TOA Board to Meet Feb. 26

Establishment of an "Industry Forum," new theatre music license rates offered by Ascap, Federal and local admission taxes, and 16mm. competition will be among the subjects on the agenda of a special meeting of the directors of Theatre Owners of America, called by board chairman Fred M. Wehrenberg and president Ted R. Gamble for Feb. 26 and 27, at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles.

It is expected that 60 leading exhibitors will attend.

Aim of the "Industry Forum," in which all segments of the industry would be invited to participate, is to iron out intra-industry problems without recourse to the courts. Idea for setting up such a forum was advanced some time ago by Wehrenberg, but action on it was postponed.

Gamble will summarize for the di-

(*Continued on page* 3)

Rank Theatre Video Web Experiment Due In '48

The J. Arthur Rank Organization in England, operating through the Rank-controlled Cinema Television, Ltd., expects to have an experimental theatre television network in operation there this year, it was disclosed by the U. S. Rank Organization here at the weekend. The network will be designed to secure information on types of programs needed, technical methods of transmission and audience reaction to presentation technique, it was said.

The plan includes six London West End theatres and two in the city's suburbs. Projectors will be installed in various parts of each house to determine the best working position, with programs to be transmitted from the British Broadcasting Company television studios at Alexandra Palace, London, and from Rank's nearby Pinewood studios, to Cinema Television's receiving and re-transmitting station at Crystal Palace. BBC's major transmission base also will be used.

Balto. Theatre Brings Suit For $600,000

Names Six Distributors, Two Theatre Companies

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—A $600,000 anti-trust suit was filed in U. S. District Court Friday by the Windsor Theatre Co. of Baltimore against six major distributors and two Baltimore theatre companies and their president.

The defendants are Loew's, Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, Universal, Warner Bros., the Walbrook Amusement Co. and the Hilton Theatre Co. of Baltimore, and Thomas D. Goldberg.

The suit charges a conspiracy since May, 1941, to restrain and injure the Windsor's business by refusing it first neighborhood-run features, allowing the defendant exhibitors to monopolize the product of the six distributors, putting the Windsor on an inferior clearance position to the Hilton and Walbrook, and by causing the Windsor to pay undue and excessive film rentals for any product which it might obtain on a clearance basis equal to that enjoyed by the exhibitor defendants.

In addition to an award of three

(*Continued on page* 6)

Loew's Asks Relief In Chicago Case

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—Motion brought by Loew's to strike out paragraph 10 of the Jackson Park Theatre decree, contending the company is under no obligation to release or license pictures to any particular theatre if it does not choose to do so, was placed under advisement here on Friday by Judge Michael Igoe of the U. S. District Court.

Thomas McConnell, attorney for

(*Continued on page* 6)

SRO Sales Offices To Move to Coast

Selznick Releasing Organization's sales headquarters will be removed from New York to Beverly, Cal., by April, SRO president Neil Agnew said here on Friday. The change, he said, has been contemplated for some time, with shortage of available office

(*Continued on page* 3)

Personal Mention

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic distribution vice-president, and WALTER TITUS, JR., Southern division manager, are conducting sales conferences in Southern exchanges.

•

MAX MILDER, Warner managing director of production in Great Britain, left Hollywood over the weekend for New York.

•

SOL KAPLAN, film composer, and MRS. KAPLAN have become parents of a daughter in Paris where they have been for the past five months.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Warner International vice-president, left here over the week-end for Los Angeles en route to the Far East.

•

THOMAS R. LANCASTER, Filmack office manager in Los Angeles, and HELEN RUTH WITWER were married Feb. 6 in Hollywood.

•

STANLEY KRAMER, president of Screenplays, Inc., and GEORGE GLASS, vice-president, left the Coast over the weekend for here.

•

GEORGE SCHAEFER, Enterprise distribution vice-president, is due in Miami today from New York.

•

JULES WEILL, Masterpiece Prod. president, left here yesterday for a tour of the Mid-West.

•

MARTIN QUIGLEY left Hollywood by train at the weekend for New York.

Paramount Steps Up Its Stock-Buying

Paramount sharply increased the tempo of its stock purchasing program last month, having acquired 32,800 shares of its common securities on the open market, to bring its holdings to 444,233 shares. During December the company purchased only 7,800 shares.

The company adopted the stock-buying program to aid in the purchase of theatre properties from partners willing to dispose of their interests, and has also used part of the stock for the acquisition of Liberty Films and Rainbow Productions. Paramount president Barney Balaban first announced the program in November, 1946.

Borthwick on Leave From MPAA Post

George Borthwick, Motion Picture Association of America secretary and treasurer will leave for California shortly on a leave of absence granted him by Eric Johnston, MPAA president.

In Borthwick's absence, Fred W. DuVall, assistant treasurer, will handle all the financial duties of the MPAA, and Sidney Schreiber, assistant secretary, will act as secretary.

Rathvons to Honor Margaret Truman

Washington, Feb. 15.—RKO president N. Peter Rathvon and Mrs. Rathvon will give a birthday luncheon for Margaret Truman at the Mayflower Hotel here on Tuesday.

The Rathvons, who arrived in Washington over the week-end, met the President's daughter last summer when she gave her Rose Bowl concert.

Act to Simplify Export Procedure

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Commerce department has taken the first in what is expected to be a series of steps to simplify the licensing requirements it is laying down for shipments of films and other commodities to Europe starting March 1.

On Friday, the department announced that companies with two or more customers for shipment of the same commodity to a single country can make all such shipments on a single license.

Presumably "commodity" would embrace all types and titles of films, and would not have to be restricted to one particular title. Thus any film company shipping films to more than one distributor in the one country could get one license to cover all the shipments for which it has orders at the time it takes out the license.

Probe Under Way in $100,000 Audio Blast

TORONTO, Feb. 15.—An investigation was started on Friday by the Ontario fire marshal into the explosion and blaze which wrecked the film inspection department of the Audio Pictures plant last Thursday. Damage was estimated at $100,000. The building was opened last month.

Arthur Gottlieb, Audio president, was in Ottawa at the time of the fire to confer with government officials, but he stated later that the plant would be in operation again within a week. Five employees were taken to the hospital for cuts and shock and five others were given treatment for possible inhalation of nitric fumes. The explosion, tearing a hole in the roof and smashing part of a rear wall, put the sprinkler system out of commission.

Hear Dismissal Pleas In D. C. for 10 Cited

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Arguments for dismissal of the cases against 10 Hollywood writers, directors and producers cited for contempt of Congress were presented here Friday in Federal district court before Judge Edward M. Curran by a battery of defense lawyers headed by Robert W. Kenny. Argument is expected to reopen tomorrow when Ben Margolis will conclude for the defendants and U. S. attorney William Hitz will answer for the Government.

News Briefs

Ask Eastern Pa. Exhibitors To Aid in Fuel Oil Crisis

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15.—Theatres which do not run continuous shows have been asked to discontinue matinee performances during the present fuel oil crisis. The request, made by Brigadier General Brenton G. Wallace, fuel oil coordinator for Eastern Pennsylvania, was addressed to Sidney Samuelson, general manager of Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Levinson-Finney Upheld

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Federal Judge R. J. McCormick ruled in favor of Levinson-Finney Enterprises and against Casino Film Exchange in the suit over distribution rights of the Austrian-made "Bon Ami." In a formal opinion, Judge McCormick branded the film "immoral" and held that it is not the kind of material which the copyright statutes were set up to protect.

Hakims Named in Suit

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Rampart Prod., owned by Joan Fontaine and William Dozier, filed suit in Superior Court at the weekend against Robert and Raymond Hakim for alleged breach of contract. Asking $100,000 and a similar amount for estimated share in profits, the plaintiff maintains that the defendants were supposed to produce "Mayerling" with Miss Fontaine starred.

Disney Machinists Ordered To Hold a Shop Election

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The National Labor Relations Board has directed an election among machine shop employes of Walt Disney Productions to determine whether they should be represented by IATSE, the International Association of Machinists, or neither. Election must be held within 30 days from Feb. 14.

U. S. Savings Drive Set; Call Meeting March 18-20

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The U. S. Security Loan Drive will be conducted April 15 through June 30, according to Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder. A three-day conference will be held here March 18-20 to set sales goals and policy with representatives of all information media attending, Snyder announced.

Gottlober on 'Brotherhood'

Sigmund Gottlober, director of the Foreign Language Film Critics' Circle, here, has been placed in charge of "Brotherhood Week" publicity in New York's foreign language press, consisting of 100 papers in 27 languages.

Mason-Rose Trial Continues

Federal Judge John C. Knox on Friday adjourned trial of the James Mason-David Rose breach-of-contract suits in U. S. District Court here until tomorrow. Hearing is expected to continue at least two more days.

Newsreel Parade

PRESIDENT TRUMAN launching the Red Cross drive is a highlight of the current newsreels. Other events include carnivals in scattered parts of the world, terror in Palestine, and varied sports and human interest items. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 13—Record cold spell across the nation. Bomb [illegible] newspaper building in Jerusalem. [illegible] blow up surplus ammunition. Truman becomes president of Red Cross. Dog show in Madison Square Garden. New Orleans carnival time. Sir Alexander Korda speaks on two motion pictures he brought to the U. S.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 247—Arab terror defies the United Nations. President Truman opens Red Cross drive. Carnival time. Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Fiesta in Italy. Nation's dogs in New York show. Lipton Cup race.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 50—Carnival season along the Riviera. Miracle of Syracuse: two sets of triplets born. Plane crash in French Alps brings death to 21. Easter hat preview. Red Cross campaign of mercy. Yacht spectacle at Miami Beach.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 117—Carnival time at New Orleans; Fiareggio, Italy; Nice, France, and pirate jamboree at Tampa, Fla. Margaret Truman launches new type river craft. Amateur snowman sculpture in Central Park. New York Golden Gloves. Lipton Cup race.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 52— Haganah trains Palestine army. Poison bandit murders 12. Mardi Gras in New Orleans, carnival in Nice, France. President Truman signs Red Cross pledge. Margaret Truman launches tug boat. Wounded vets learn pin-up photography. Lipton race. Snow sculpture.

7 New Films Start; 34 Are Shooting

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—An encouraging spurt of production activity brought the index up to 34 at the week-end as against 29 of the previous week. Cameras started grinding on seven new films while two were sent to the cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "I Surrender, Dear," Columbia; "Let's Live a Little," Eagle-Lion; "Blond Ice" (a Martin Mooney production), Film Classics; "Murder by Alphabet," Monogram; "The Boy With Green Hair," RKO Radio; "One Last Fling" and "Dames Don't Talk," Warner Brothers.

Shooting finished on "Easter Parade," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and "Secret Service Investigator," Republic.

Fischer, Wynn Quit UA, E-L Sales Posts

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—Abe Fischer has resigned as salesman here for United Artists, while Ted Wynn has left a similar post with Eagle-Lion. Jack Aarmgard, recently with Selznick Releasing Organization in the Mid-West, replaces Fischer.

Ottawa Doorman Dies

OTTAWA, Feb. 15. — William O. Stewart, 60, veteran doorman at the Elgin Theatre here, died Thursday while on duty.

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Meeting Here Takes Up Trailer Program

An 11-point program dealing with trailers was discussed at the Hotel Astor here on Thursday by distributor, circuit and independent theatre representatives. The meeting was spearheaded by Leonard H. Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatres. George F. Dembow, vice-president and general sales manager of National Screen Service, represented his company.

Among subjects said to have been discussed were length of trailers, use of superlatives, calibre of music and extent and make-up of actual scenes used. The meeting was an outgrowth of several others held by Paramount theatre partners and associates in the last few months.

Under their arrangements, producers make their own trailers and deliver them to NSS for printing and distribution. Changes in length, timing and overall approach, consequently, rest with the producers. However, NSS manufactures a portion of the trailers it sells and these could be funnelled into a different format if a general agreement along such lines were determined.

No comment on the meeting was forthcoming on Friday from NSS or Paramount theatre officials.

Victoria to Selznick As B'way Showcase

Deal has been finalized between Selznick Releasing Organization and City Investment Corp., for the former's leasing of the Victoria Theatre here for use as a showcase, Neil Agnew, SRO president, said on Friday. The theatre will be given a new name following refurbishing and enlarging of seating space, for SRO occupancy probably by Sept. 1, Agnew said.

Plans for SRO acquisition of other showcases elsewhere in the U. S. are indefinite, Agnew said. He added that acquisition of an SRO showcase here would not necessarily preclude its sale of pictures to Radio City Music Hall.

SRO Sales Offices

(*Continued from page* 1)

space on the Coast the delaying factor. New location will be the Western Airlines building in Beverly.

The foreign auditing, contract and all other departments, except Eastern publicity under Robert Gillham, will move out with the sales organization, Agnew said.

Agnew and Milton S. Kusell, SRO general sales manager, will come to New York from time to time when business requires. Agnew said SRO, with the release of only four or five pictures a year, can guide its sales as satisfactorily out of Beverly as it has out of New York.

Agnew said the company may produce a picture in Italy and Palestine soon, but it is unlikely that it will produce in England. Commenting on the British tax impasse, he said he sees no reason why American production cannot support itself profitably in the American market alone.

SRO executives will not be asked to take salary cuts, Agnew said.

Review

"The Big Clock"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, Feb. 15

YOU'VE got to see this one to believe it's as good as it is, because it's just about the best ever in the slick-sleuth category, but while you're getting around to seeing it you can take the loudly voiced collective word of some 300 press preview observers that it's the brightest 93 minutes of melodrama in recent history. With Ray Milland, Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Sullivan and Elsa Lanchester as names to draw to, the picture has everything it takes to open big and grow as it runs.

The reason you've got to see this one to believe it's as good as it is stems from the fact that the story is so artfully constructed that no printed synopsis or descriptive terminology can be expected to convey the sparkle, buoyancy, wit and freshness which—all superimposed upon a deadly serious murder story—set the production apart from and above its kind. In simplest terms, it's a story about a man who knows his employer is guilty of a murder and is assigned by that employer to track down an innocent suspect from clues which, if successfully followed up, will fix the guilt upon the investigator himself. (It's immeasurably more complicated that that sounds, and immensely interesting.)

The setting is principally a great modern office building housing a magazine publishing business owned by Laughton. Milland is editor of a Laughton magazine devoted to the crime field, and an expert in locating missing persons. When Laughton murders a girl he's been supporting, and plots with the assistant-publisher to pin the crime on the man last seen with her (not knowing it is Milland), a stream of incidents is set in motion which keeps audience interest at peak pitch until the unexpected end.

Milland's performance as the investigating editor, Miss O'Sullivan's as his wife, and Laughton's as the tyrannical publisher are superlative examples of their art, and under John Farrow's swift, sure direction these and the other members of a large cast seem every moment to be flesh and blood people caught up in events which press them to their utmost.

It's adult material, in both senses of the term, produced with distinction by Richard Maibaum from an inspired screenplay by Jonathan Latimer.

Running time, 93 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Cites "Restraint" in EK Rate Increases

ROCHESTER, Feb. 15.—The fact that Eastman Kodak prices have gone up but 16 per cent since August, 1939, was cited by Albert K. Chapman, general manager, as evidence of the "considerable restraint" employed by the company in effecting necessary price increases.

Chapman said the controlling factor in every recent price change has been "the company's long-time policy of keeping its product prices reasonable in order to expand output and widen the market for its products."

Mexican Deal Set for Okay by UA Board

Ratification of United Artists' sale of its Mexican releasing organization to Credito Cinematografico Mexicano, disclosed in a letter from president Grad Sears to UA producers, is expected to take place at the next meeting of the company's board of directors.

The deal is retroactive and applies to all UA product unreleased as well as released.

Schedule UA Parley

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—While Arthur Kelley, United Artists executive vice-president, left here by plane today for New York, Gradwell L. Sears, UA president, remained here for forthcoming conferences with Mary Pickford, who arrived yesterday, and George Bagnall, production executive, who is due back in town Tuesday.

15¢ RKO Dividend

Board of directors of Radio-Keith-Orpheum has declared a dividend of 15 cents per share on the common stock, payable April 1, to stockholders of record on March 15.

Scully Urges

(*Continued from page* 1)

the possibilities of the American market being able to absorb high negative cost if the pictures received the type of exhibition they are entitled to after their boxoffice performance was established.

"The growth of Universal is best reflected in the fact that in the past 10 years we have practically doubled the number of customers we had at the time the present management took over. To maintain the grosses that are required due to present exigencies caused by the reduction in foreign income we will continue our efforts to serve as many exhibitors as possible," Scully said.

"The big problem facing the industry is to enlarge the American market and this can only be done if both exhibitors and distributors understand the need for diversity," he added.

The meeting at the Waldorf, which will continue through Wednesday, is being attended by branch managers, district managers and salesmen from Boston, New Haven, Albany, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington and New York offices, and by E. T. Gomersall, A. J. O'Keefe, F. J. A. McCarthy, Fred Meyers, C. J. Feldman, E. L. McEvoy, John Joseph, Maurice Bergman, Hank Linet and Al Horwits of the advertising and publicity department.

TOA Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

rectors the recent TOA-Ascap negotiations which resulted in rates much lower than those proposed by Ascap last year.

Restrictions on theatre construction, censorship and theatre television will also be discussed at the meeting. A large-screen television demonstration will be arranged.

New Washington-NY Video Rates Asked

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Federal Communications Commission has asked the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to file by May 1 a rate schedule for the transmission of television programs on the Washington-New York coaxial cable.

Under a 1945 Commission order A. T. and T. has been furnishing free coaxial cable transmission for television programs experimentally.

Several months ago A. T. and T. filed proposed rates with the Commission for television transmission. However, television companies and broadcasters objected strenuously and the company withdrew the schedule.

Deny DuMont Plans Sale of Interests

Rumors that the Allen B. DuMont Laboratories contemplates selling any part of its television interests were denied here at the weekend by Dr. Allen B. DuMont, president, who said these rumors "may have originated on the premise that Paramount may have received offers for their stock holdings in DuMont." He said that Paramount's holdings "do not represent a controlling interest." He pointed out that DuMont stock is divided into two classes—A and B. The A stock represents 72 per cent of the total issued shares, and Paramount owns less than 3 per cent of this, he said. The B stock which is owned by Paramount, DuMont said, represents 28 per cent of the total issue. He emphasized that "any sale of the Paramount-owned B stock would not affect the measure of control now held by the A share holders."

Ask ABC Stock Sale For Video Financing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—American Broadcasting Co. has filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission for permission to issue 250,000 common shares to be sold to persons with whom it had network affiliation agreements Jan. 31, and to other persons from time to time.

Proceeds will go into the company's general funds and will be used to pay in part the $5,325,000 television expansion the company plans in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco and Detroit. About $3,825,000 of the total is scheduled to be spent this year, ABC said.

Crosley Video Station Goes Commercial

CINCINNATI, Feb. 15.—Commercial operations have been started by WLWT, the Crosley Broadcasting Corp. television station, after nine years of experimentation.

Time rates from 6:30 to 11 P.M. on week days and all of Sunday follow: $250, one hour; $200, half hour; $150, quarter hour; $100, 10 minutes; $50, five minutes; $25, one minute.

Technicolor Upheld

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Technicolor's opposition to the Columbia Broadcasting System's application to register "Telecolor" as the trademark for radio and television apparatus has been sustained by the U. S. Court of Customs and Patents Appeals.

"ONE OF THE BEST PICTURES

DOING SOME OF THE B

"One of the Ten Best of the Year . . . Tense and magnificent."
—N. Y. Times

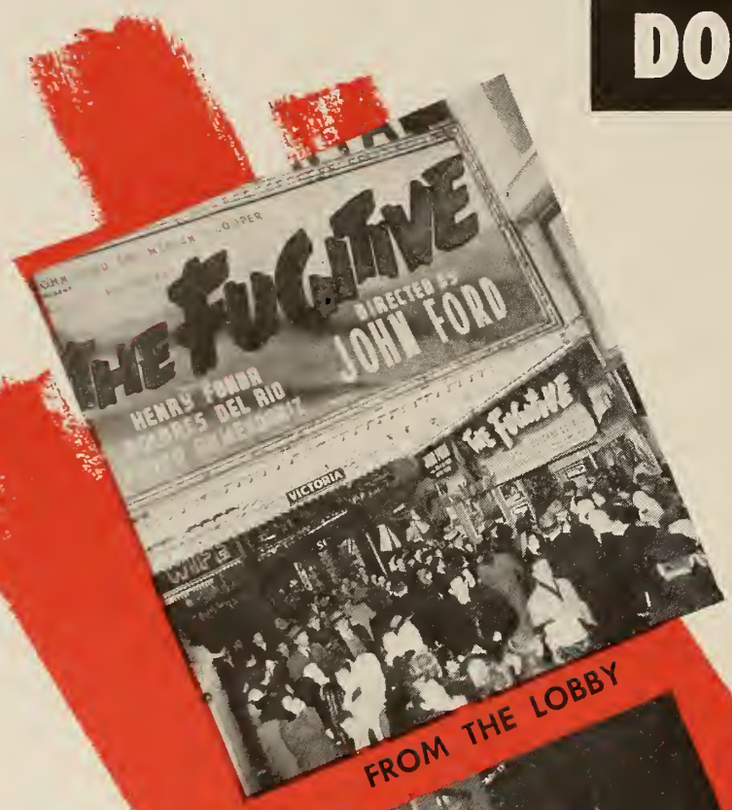
"One of the Ten Best of the Year . . . A masterpiece . . . as fine drama as the screen affords."
—N. Y. Daily News

"Engrossing . . . tremendous melodramatic power . . . Ford's direction savage and sensitive."
—N. Y. Herald-Tribune

"Fine emotional drama . . . a standout in direction and photography."
—N. Y. Daily Mirror

"Picture of the Month . . . A masterpiece of direction and photography."
—Redbook Magazine

"Striking emotional drama . . . told in terrifying terms of action."
—Liberty Magazine



FROM THE LOBBY



AROUND THE CORNER



DOWN THE BLOCK

RELEASED THROUGH
RKO
RADIO
PICTURES

SF THE YEAR" IS

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR!

"No finer picture made this year . . . Utterly breathtaking."
—*McCall's Magazine*

"Movie of the Week . . . The story is unusual . . . direction superb."
—*N. Y. Sunday Mirror*

"A stirring drama superbly played."
—*Cue Magazine*

For instance, at the Victoria, on Broadway: still going strong with around-the-corner boxoffice lines (see photos) after record opening week beginning Christmas Day! . . . Terrific grosses in a dozen Texas engagements, including San Antonio, Ft. Worth, Houston, El Paso, Austin . . . In Albuquerque . . . Swell business in Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Birmingham, Miami, Milwaukee, Cincinnati—with the success story growing bigger and better with new big openings every week! . . . And no wonder — when you think of the overboard acclaim by all the leading critics!

JOHN FORD and MERIAN C. COOPER
present **ARGOSY PICTURES'**

THE FUGITIVE

co-starring
HENRY FONDA • DOLORES DEL RIO
PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
with
J. CARROL NAISH • LEO CARRILLO • WARD BOND • ROBERT ARMSTRONG • JOHN QUALEN
Screen Play by DUDLEY NICHOLS

DIRECTED BY **JOHN FORD**

Associate Producer: EMILIO FERNANDEZ • Cinematography: GABRIEL FIGUEROA

Trust Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

times an estimated $200,000 damages, the Windsor asks the court to prohibit the defendant distributors from supplying their films to the Walbrook and Hilton on any terms other than those offered the Windsor, and during the next four years to distribute their pictures so that the Windsor can get no less than one-half of all films distributed by the eight major companies in the Baltimore area.

Would Enjoin Bidding

The Windsor also asked the court to enjoin the distributors from making competitive bidding a condition for getting their films. The complaint declared that the use of this system by 20th Century-Fox has resulted in harsher payment terms than ever before, exacted from the Windsor only because of the monopoly allowed the exhibitor defendants.

The Windsor has always received Columbia films, and, except for a brief interlude when competitive bidding was used, RKO releases.

The suit was brought for the Windsor by attorneys Harold L. Schilz of Washington and Bernard L. Rosen of Baltimore.

One charge made is that when construction of the Windsor was begun, the exhibitor defendants ousted the tenant of the garage next to the Windsor and converted it into a small theatre—the Hilton—as a "fighting" theatre to use up the amount of first-neighborhood-run pictures which might otherwise have been available to the Windsor.

Bar from MPTO Unit Claimed

Another charge is that Goldberg kept the Windsor officers from joining the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Maryland and thus barring him from the "valuable privilege of being included in a group-theatre advertisement that appears each day in the Baltimore *News-Post*.

Among other charges listed in the complaint are the following:

That the exhibitor defendants tried to block a construction permit for the Windsor, discourage financial support, interfere with workmen building the theatre, and disparage the credit standing of the Windsor company;

That the distributors granted the Walbrook and Hilton clearance preference "in many cases" amounting to from three weeks to a year and gave them preferred playing time or the best booking availability in each week, cut-price concessions in the form of double feature programs, and more frequent program changes.

Imply WB Pact Breach

That in the 1945-46 season Warner Bros. promised to make available its first features to the Windsor on a first-neighborhood-run basis, that on the strength of this the Windsor announced publicly it had become a first-run theatre and increased its admission prices, and that Warner then "failed to perform its contractual obligations."

That the defendant distributors allowed the exhibitor defendants to divert into the Hilton Theatre the extra and unneeded product which they had overbought to deprive the Windsor, and that this has been done "with full knowledge that the Windsor cannot successfully operate without first-run rights on the output of at least four of the eight major producers."

Grosses In Comeback

(*Continued from page* 1)

from Castile," "Tycoon" and "My Wild Irish Rose." "Cass Timberlane" crowded for third place toward the latter part of the month. Another film which did not get into general circulation until the last week in January, but which registered solidly was "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre."

Other films which turned in better-than-average grosses at a number of situations were: "Gentleman's Agreement," "The Senator Was Indiscreet," "Killer McCoy," "I Walk Alone," "Sleep My Love," "The Bishop's Wife," "Body and Soul," "Intrigue," "Out of the Past," "The Paradine Case," "Out of the Blue," "Green Dolphin Street" and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty."

Also, "Night Song," "The Swordsman," "The Flame," "I Love Trouble," "Carmen," "Pirates of Monterey," "T-Men," "The Spoilers," "The High Wall," "The Fugitive," "You Were Meant for Me," "The Gangster," "Unconquered," "Golden Earrings," "If Winter Comes" and "Daisy Kenyon."

Composite key city box-office reports for 1948 to date, compared with corresponding weeks of 1947, follow:

1948 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 2-3	179	$3,406,600	$19,031
Jan. 9-10	168	3,112,700	18,528
Jan. 16-17	168	2,473,300	14,722
Jan. 23-24	166	2,419,000	14,572
Jan. 30-31	166	2,341,900	14,108

1947 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 3-4	167	$3,678,100	$22,024
Jan. 10-11	173	3,363,200	19,400
Jan. 17-18	173	3,007,300	17,383
Jan. 24-25	176	3,043,700	17,294
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	181	2,293,600	18,197

Britain to Make 60

(*Continued from page* 1)

Film Productions, Ltd., expects to make from 12 to 14 features during the current year, of which about five will be released in this country. He said 20th-Fox would distribute most of these films in the Western Hemisphere and some in England.

Korda emphasized the shortage of Technicolor facilities in England, saying there were only three cameras there, and that he uses half the Technicolor facilities and Rank the other half. New Technicolor laboratories are now under construction.

Korda said that his forthcoming films will be of top quality and would cost upwards of 170,000 pounds ($680,000). He said he brought with him a print of "Anna Karenina" to show to 20th Century-Fox executives. He also disclosed that the contracts of the producing team of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger have been extended "for another long term." Another disclosure was that Orson Welles will produce two films for him, starting on "Cyrano" sometime next month. Asked about the possibility of making films for television, he said that "there are too many bridges to cross before considering that." Korda, who arrived here from London last week, leaves for Hollywood this week.

Loew's Asks

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Jackson Park Theatre, declared in court that the Jackson Park is now being boycotted individually instead of collectively by major distributing companies, and further charged there are only five major distributors in this area, and if one doesn't sell, referring to Loew's, product is scarcer and rentals higher.

Motion will probably be ruled on Feb. 20, at which time the court will pass on McConnell's petition for a contempt citation against the major distributors and theatre defendants here.

De Luxe Gets Extension

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—An extension until March 15 to answer briefs filed by Paramount in support of its motion to strike out certain references to the decree in the Jackson Park Theatre case has been granted the DeLuxe here, in the theatre's anti-trust action against the company and Balaban and Katz.

KATO to Abandon

(*Continued from page* 1)

board to regulate the checking of theatre grosses.

The bill, designed to prevent Confidential Reports, Inc., from continuing its program of local checkers in Kentucky, was prepared under the supervision of Guthrie F. Crowe, president of KATO, and Henry J. Stites, general counsel of the organization.

Stites attended the meeting of the TOA Legal Advisory Council in Washington on February 9 and since that time has been conferring with TOA leaders in New York, Dr. Isador Lubin of Confidential Reports, Inc., and officials of the Motion Picture Association of America.

E-L to Release 10

(*Continued from page* 1)

current and forthcoming major features.

Bryan Foy, production vice-president, who arrived Friday from Hollywood on his first visit to the home office since early last year, discussed the company's product lineup. Max E. Youngstein, director of advertising-publicity-exploitation, revealed completed plans for increased production budgets in line with E-L's point-of-sale promotion policy. Frank Goule, in charge of branch operations, spoke on non-theatrical sales, personnel forms, and liquidation.

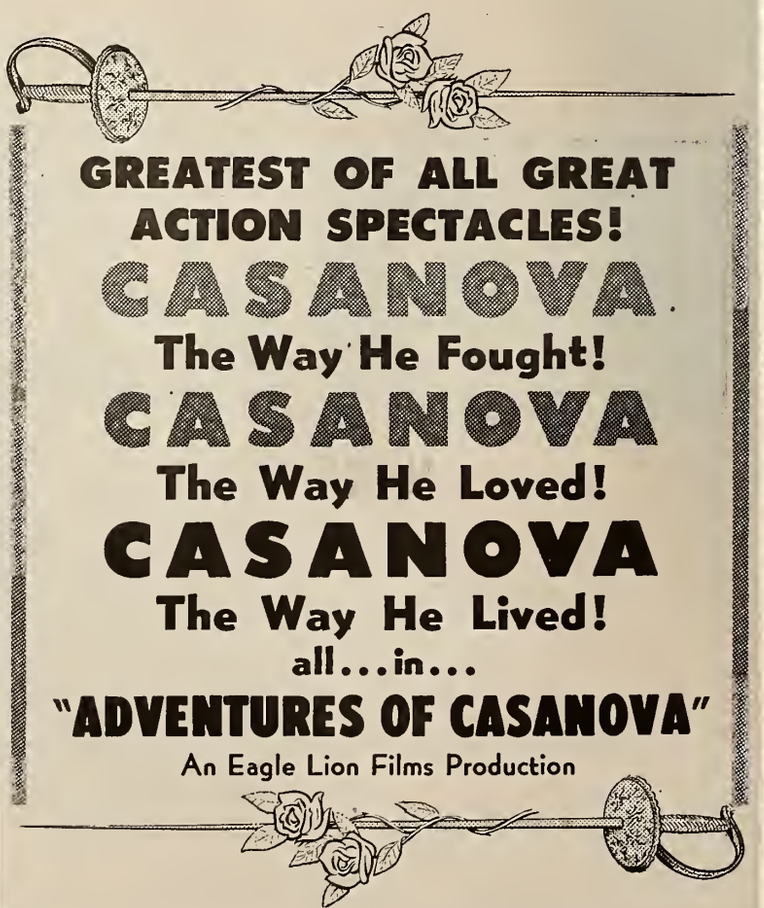
Also participating in the discussions were L. J. Schlaifer, newly-appointed assistant to Heineman; Herman Beiersdorf, Western sales manager; Harold S. Dunn, circuit sales manager; Jerry Pickman, assistant director of advertising - publicity - exploitation; Manny Goodman, playdate manager; Joe Sugar, manager of contract department; Del Goodman, West Coast division manager.

E-L Names Dunn

The appointment of Harold S. Dunn as Eagle-Lion circuit sales manager, effective immediately, was announced here on Friday by William J. Heineman, vice-president in charge of distribution.

UK Quota Bill to Lords

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The British film quota bill has passed its third reading in the House of Commons and will now go to the House of Lords. Commons member Earl Winterton, in summing up the bill, said its object is to give British production an opportunity to consolidate ground won during the past 10 years and to boost output.



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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 32 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1948 TEN CENTS

$1,580,000 Chicago Trust Action Filed

Fixed Admissions and Rental Priority Cited

CHICAGO, Feb. 16. — Another trust suit was added to the rising list when the Monroe Amusement Corp., here, operator of the downtown Monroe Theatre from 1931 until March 4, 1945, today filed for treble damages on two counts against 14 companies, charging violations of the Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts, and asking for $1,580,000.

The plaintiff, represented by attorney Seymour Simon, charged the defendants gave priority in film rentals to theatres owned or controlled by them and conspired to fix prices of admissions to be charged. James Jovan is now owner and operator of the theatre.

Mentioned specifically in the suit was the downtown McVickers The-

(*Continued on page 2*)

10 New Films For 1st-Runs

Business at New York's downtown first-runs is fairly good generally this week. Hold-overs are at the majority of houses, but a large number will give way to new product before the week is out. Newcomers will bow in as follows: "Sleep My Love," Criterion; "Road to Rio," Paramount; "Call Northside 777," Roxy; "A Double Life," Radio City Music Hall; "The Burning Cross," Victoria; "Jassy," Winter Garden; "My Girl Tisa," Strand; "The Flame," Gotham;

(*Continued on page 3*)

Cinecolor Officers Reelected by Board

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—Incumbent officers of Cinecolor, including A. Pam Blumenthal, chairman of the board of directors; William T. Crespinel, president, and Alan M. Gundelfinger, vice-president and technical director, have been re-elected by the board of directors. Graham Sterling, Jr., and Karl Herzog, treasurer, were also renamed.

Other members of the nine-man board are: C. Kenneth Baxter, Joseph J. Rathert, John D. Kerr and Joseph Bernhard, president of Film Classics.

Myers Wary of Prediction On Theatre Divorcement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Abram F. Myers, Allied States' general counsel, said today he was confident the U. S. Supreme Court will "strike down" the competitive bidding feature of the lower court decree in the industry anti-trust suit, but pointed out with careful qualification that the high Court might uphold the lower court's findings on divorcement.

At the same time Myers declared that no matter what the Supreme Court decides in the case, the industry must "undergo a period of readjustment," and warned that independent exhibitors must be alert and careful during this period.

In his annual report issued in the

(*Continued on page 3*)

New Rates Approved By Ascap's Board

Ascap's board of directors yesterday formally ratified the society's new theatre music tax schedule, as announced on Feb. 6. The revised rates represent a maximum increase of 25 per cent, with no boost whatever for many smaller houses.

Increases up to 300 per cent had first been sought by Ascap in its negotiations with the Theatre Owners of America.

Un-American Group Held Constitutional

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The Supreme Court today in effect upheld the constitutionality of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and also indicated that the committee has fairly broad investigatory powers.

The Court action came in refusing to review a lower court conviction of Leon Josephson for contempt of the committee. Josephson, who was cited early last year in connection with the Gerhardt Eisler investigation, appealed the lower court action, challenging the committee's authority. While the high Court's refusal to take the case does not rule squarely on the committee's powers, it is seen here as a pretty good indication of how such a ruling may go.

Meanwhile, District Court Judge Edward M. Curran today denied the motion of counsel to dismiss the case against 10 Hollywood figures indicted for contempt of Congress.

Senate Committee Would End Controls

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The Senate Banking and Currency Committee today formally voted to end present controls over theatre and other amusement construction on Feb. 29, but it looked like March 31 would wind up as the date the controls go out.

The House Banking Committee today approved a simple 30-day extension of the present rent and housing law, under which the theatre curbs are administered.

20th-Fox Launches Daily Video Reel

By MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Another milestone in television's steady advance was marked here last night when 20th Century-Fox's Movietone News launched its television newsreel over the East Coast National Broadcasting Television network. The broadcast marked the first time a film company had prepared a newsreel especially for television. The reel will be telecast daily Mondays through Fridays (7:50 to 8 P.M. EST) under the sponsorship of Camel cigarettes.

At a special press demonstration of the event held at Movietone's home office, the reel was received from NBC through the air, in the same manner as any home receiver, and then thrown on to a 7½ by 10 foot screen by a special RCA theatre-size television projector.

Though highly impressive, the television reel, when compared to the regular theatre newsreel, came out

(*Continued on page 3*)

Pathe To Have U. S. Circuit of Twelve

First theatre of a proposed U. S. circuit of 12 will be opened in New York in April by Pathe Cinema, French organization, it was announced here yesterday by Jacques Chabrier, president of the U. S. Pathe affiliate. The New York house, intended as a "showcase" for Pathe Cinema and other French product, is now under construction at 58th Street and Fifth Avenue. It will be called The Paris.

$1,719,000 In Exchange Pay Raises

15% Boost for 6,300; Overtime Also Granted

Climaxing three months of negotiations between the IATSE and nine distributors, a 15 per cent cost-of-living wage increase for more than 6,300 film exchange employes in the country's 32 exchange cities has been agreed upon. The new scales, effective Feb. 29, are retroactive to Dec. 1 of last year. Maximum increase will be $10 per week per person.

On the basis of an arbitrary average salary of $35 per employe, a 15 per cent increase amounts annually to $1,719,000 for 6,300 workers, whose retroactive pay will come to about $400,000.

At the same time, "IA" reports, the standard work week for all exchange employes will become five eight-hour days, Monday through Friday, with time-and-a-half to be paid for all Saturday, Sunday and holiday work. Heretofore, many of the employes

(*Continued on page 3*)

Warner Nets $3,947,000

Warner Brothers and subsidiary companies report for the three months ended Nov. 29, 1947, a net profit of $3,947,000 after provision of $2,700,000 for taxes. Net profit for the three months ended Nov. 30, 1946, amounted to $7,203,000, after provision of $4,400,000 for taxes.

The net profit for the latest three months is equivalent to 54 cents per

(*Continued on page 3*)

House Hearings on Strike Open Today

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Hearings on the Hollywood jurisdictional strike will be launched tomorrow by the House labor sub-committee headed by Rep. Carroll D. Kearns.

Among film executives expected to testify are Eric Johnston, Barney Balaban, Jack Cohn, William C. Michel, Spyros Skouras, Harry Warner, Herbert J. Yates and N. Peter Rathvon. Leaders of the union involved in the strike also will be heard.

Personal Mention

ROBERT L. LIPPERT, Screen Guild Productions vice-president, and PAT PATTERSON of Astor Pictures, have left San Francisco for New York.

•

TOM LOY, IATSE public relations director, here, and MRS. LOY, became the parents of a baby boy on Saturday, at Hartford. MRS. LOY, the former HELEN MCNAMARA, and the newcomer are doing splendidly.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON, Motion Picture Association of America president, has been named by Federal Security Administrator OSCAR EWING as a member of the executive committee of the National Health Assembly.

•

MURRAY SILVERSTONE, president of 20th Century-Fox International; ROBERT WALKER and his wife, JENNIFER JONES, and NANCY GUILD are among passengers who will arrive here today from Europe on the *SS Queen Mary*.

•

LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, EDWARD L. HYMAN and HAL PEREIRA, Paramount theatre executives, will leave New York today for Detroit. They are due back here on Friday.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising head, and ERNEST EMERLING, Loew circuit advertising-publicity chief, are due in New York today from the Coast.

•

EDWARD M. SCHNITZER, United Artists Eastern and Canadian sales manager, will be in Gloversville, N. Y., today en route to Cleveland.

•

HUGH OWEN, Paramount Eastern and Southern division manager, has returned to New York from a trip through his New England territory.

•

JACK GOLDSTEIN will leave here today by plane for the Coast where he will stay at the Beverly-Wilshire Hotel for two weeks.

•

EDWIN KNOPF, M-G-M producer, and GEORGE CUKOR, director, are expected in town today from Hollywood en route to England.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M exploitation head, will leave here today for Atlanta.

•

MONTAGUE SALMON, managing director of the Rivoli Theatre here, has returned from the Coast.

•

ARTHUR W. KELLY, United Artists executive vice-president, has returned to New York from Hollywood.

St. Louis Manager Shot

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 16.—Eugene H. Abelin, 23, treasurer of the Fox Theatre, was shot and seriously wounded when he resisted an attempted holdup at his office on the mezzanine. Police seized a suspect two blocks from the theatre.

News Briefs

Kas.-Mo. Allied Says Para., U-I Supplying Free Trailers

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 16.—Current bulletin of Allied ITO of Kansas-Missouri states the organization has been informed that Paramount and Universal are furnishing trailers on their new releases to exhibitors without charge. The bulletin cautions exhibitors against running the trailers unless the films advertised have been bought by them.

A meeting of the AITO board is scheduled to be held here Feb. 24.

WB Theatre in Albany Shifts To Universal First-run

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 16.—Ritz Theatre, a Warner second-run downtown house here, will inaugurate tomorrow a first-run policy on Universal product, with "Wistful Widow of Wagon Gap" and "The Lost Moment" introducing the new admission price scale of 50 cents for matinees and 65 cents for evenings. The admission range, which is the same as that used by other first runs here, has heretofore been employed only on move-overs from the Strand.

Massachusetts Court Rules Theatre Equipment Taxable

BOSTON, Feb. 16.—A decision of the full bench of the Massachusetts Supreme Court that the word "machinery" for tax purposes includes projection and sound equipment, a generator and an induction motor for operating electric organs in two Brockton houses opens new sources of revenue for state taxing authorities, and may also give exhibitors another tax headache to contend with.

Another M-G-M House Abroad

M-G-M Italy will operate the Cristallo Theatre in Turin, Italy, as a first-run house for M-G-M pictures, beginning Feb. 19, the company reported here yesterday.

The latest addition to Loew's International theatres overseas was built last year.

Set Disney Dividend

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—Board of directors of Walt Disney Prod. has declared a quarterly dividend of 37½ cents on its six per cent cumulative convertible preferred stock, payable April 1 to holders of record March 13.

20th Opening a Benefit

MIAMI, Feb. 16.—The world opening of 20th-Fox's "Sitting Pretty" at the Lincoln Theatre here the night of Feb. 24 will be for the benefit of the Motion Picture Foundation and the local Variety Club. The benefit show will be put on by Mitchell Wolfson and Sidney Meyer.

Reception for Chester

Hal E. Chester, Monogram-Allied Artists producer, will receive members of the trade press tomorrow afternoon at the office of Norton V. Ritchey at Monogram International here.

Normalcy Seen By Johnston in 1949

Warning that the readjustment is not going to be easy, Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, expressed confidence in an interview with Howard Barnes of the *New York Herald Tribune* that the film industry's return to normal will be realized before the close of 1949.

The MPAA head said he knew of not one important film company that had not been in the red since the final quarter of last year, adding that conditions in the industry would probably worsen before improving.

Johnston asserted that meanwhile retrenchment was an absolute must. He said studios must realistically face the fact that better product has to be turned out at lower cost.

Much of the talk of the collapse of film production was characterized by Johnston as a gross exaggeration.

Johnston predicted that in the very near future more than half of Great Britain's film houses would be compelled to close because of the shortage of product resulting from imposition of the 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax by the British government and the resulting film export boycott by American companies.

Johnston said executive salaries in the industry, including his own, are too high.

Schmidt Starts in Columbia Ad Post

Art Schmidt yesterday took over as director of Columbia advertising-publicity, with headquarters at the home office, here.

Schmidt arrived in New York over the weekend from Hollywood, where he was advertising counsel at the company's studio.

Meanwhile, Paul Walker, for four years a member of Columbia's advertising-publicity department, will leave the company March 1 to assume duties as columnist and associate editor of the Harrisburg (Pa.) *Telegraph*. Walker was feature writer and columnist for the Pennsylvania paper prior to joining Columbia in 1943.

Chicago Trust Action

(*Continued from page* 1)

atre, the Monroe's closest competitor, in which the plaintiff charges that prior to February, 1937, both houses were in "C" week of pre-release, and when Diana Theatre Corp., in which Balaban and Katz owned a 50 per cent stock interest, commenced to operate the house in 1937, the McVickers was put in the "A" week of pre-release, allowing 23 days of clearance priority over the Monroe. From Jan., 1943 to March, 1945, the Monroe was subsequently put into the second "B" pre-release week.

Defendants named in both counts were Balaban and Katz, Diana Theatre Corp., Great States, Warner Theatres, Warner Circuit Management Corp., Loew's, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox, Warners, Paramount Pictures, Paramount Film Distributing Corp., Columbia Pictures, Universal and United Artists.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
Gregory PECK - Ann TODD - Charles LAUGHTON
Charles COBURN - Ethel BARRYMORE and LOUIS JOURDAN and VALLI
in David O. Selznick's production of Hitchcock's
"THE PARADINE CASE"
- Spectacular Stage Presentation -

HUMPHREY BOGART "TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE"
WALTER HUSTON Produced by HENRY BLANKE
IN PERSON LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
Plus BIG REVUE
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9 AM LATE FILM AT MIDNIGHT
LATE STAGE SHOW 10:30 PM B'WAY AT 47th

BENEDICT BOGEAUS presents
PAULETTE GODDARD HENRY FONDA
JAMES STEWART FRED MacMURRAY
IN
"A MIRACLE CAN HAPPEN"
Released thru UNITED ARTISTS
WARNER THEATRE
B'way 51st • Opens 10:30 AM
Late Midnight Film

BING CROSBY BOB HOPE DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD TO RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
DANA ANDREWS · MERLE OBERON · ETHEL BARRYMORE
in A JOHN CROMWELL PRODUCTION
'NIGHT SONG
with HOAGY CARMICHAEL

COLUMBIA PICTURES presents
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
Now... Popular Prices
RIVOLI B'WAY AT 49th ST.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address: "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo J. Sullivan, Vice-President and Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Yucca-Vine Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 120 South La Salle Street, Editorial and Advertising, Urben Farley, Advertising Representative. Washington, J. A. Otten, 814 South Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington, Va. London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1. Hope Burnup, Manager, Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Myers Wary

(*Continued from page* 1)

opening day of the Allied board meeting here, Myers also indicated that there is little likelihood in his opinion of an admission tax reduction in the near future. He stated, however, that "if it shall appear that there is a ghost of a chance to secure a reduction from the 80th Congress, Allied will see to it that the proper representations are made to the Ways and Means Committee."

The Allied board chairman emphasized the increasing tendency on the part of states and municipalities to tax the industry and underlined the importance of building better public relations at the community level. "The public's point of contact with the industry is the exhibitor," he declared.

Calling last week's Supreme Court argument on the Paramount case "what may prove to be a major operation," Myers said that the efforts of combined counsel in opposing competitive bidding constituted a "masterpiece of demolition."

However, he continued, "the main danger, as I see it, is that the Court to spare its own exertions might give undue weight to the lower court's findings with respect to divorcement."

Allied's general counsel suggested that there must be a committee in every Allied territory to observe the working of the decree and to report their observations and views. "Above all," he insisted, "there must be a thorough policing to detect violations."

Reporting on Ascap Myers said, "it is perfectly obvious that those who now claim credit for having negotiated a settlement for less than Ascap's asking price merely moved in under cover of Allied's fire and that had Allied ceased firing, the settlement—if any—would have been for an even greater increase over the present rates."

Three Allied Units Favor Continued Fight on Ascap

Indicating that Allied States will continue its fight against Ascap despite the recently announced schedule of new theatre music tax rates which call for no increase for theatres up to 500 seats and a 25 per cent increase for larger houses, three Allied units have urged their members to continue the fight against Ascap and to support the Lewis Bill, the Allied sponsored measure which would transfer the performing rights license to producers.

The Allied units are: Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana; Allied ITO of Kansas-Missouri and Allied Rocky Mountain Independent Theatres.

Daily Video Reel

(*Continued from page* 1)

second best. The same shortcomings inherent in general television reception were present in the video reel. For one thing the images lacked the sharpness and clarity of the theatre newsreel. They also had a wavering effect, with lines intermittently rippling across the screen.

Insofar as up-to-the-minute timeliness goes, it is to be pointed out that most of the news events shown last night have already flashed across the screens of the nation's theatres.

Notable was the absence of any background music on the soundtrack due to the fact that there is no arrangement with the American Federation of Musicians to permit its use.

Review

"B. F.'s Daughter"

(Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

Hollywood, Feb. 16

THE names—Barbara Stanwyck, Van Heflin, Charles Coburn, Keenan Wynn, Spring Byington, Richard Hart, and the reputation of the John Marquand novel of the same title, ought to get this Robert Z. Leonard production off to a good start. And people who turn out for it will witness proficient performances in rich settings by ably directed players. Whether they will consider themselves entertained to the extent of spreading favorable word among their friends appears to depend upon the success of Luther Davis' screenplay, which is almost totally conversational and keeps its characters talking indecisively about capitalism and human rights without attempting very hard to prove anything about either. Since all the characters concerned are presented as being admirable, not much conflict is present and interest never approaches boiling point.

Miss Stanwyck, as an earnest daughter of an altogether benevolent self-made millionaire, marries Van Heflin, an assistant professor of economics at Columbia who lectures and writes unflatteringly about capitalists, and they live happily for a time. Then she gets him engaged for a speaking tour, by secretly guaranteeing his sponsor a profit, and he clicks so solidly that he becomes a member of the late President Roosevelt's "brain trust." With his earnings, plus a few hundred thousand dollars given her by her father, she buys him a home so richly appointed that he determines not to live in it, at which point a radio commentator friend of theirs tells him about his wife's having guaranteed his lecture tour, and the marriage blows up. Several collateral story strands are brought to the fore after this, inclusive of certain aspects of World War II, and these bring the two together again under circumstances which prompt them, without bothering to work out their differences of opinion about wealth and independence, to slip into a clinch which winds up the picture. Coburn as the capitalist and Wynn as the commentator make their roles seem real. Edwin H. Knopf produced.

Running time, 110 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Warner Nets

(*Continued from page* 1)

share on the 7,295,000 shares of common stock outstanding. The profit for the corresponding period in 1946 was equivalent to 97 cents per share on 7,402,180 shares then outstanding.

Film rentals, theatre admissions, sales, etc., after eliminating intercompany transactions for the latest three months, amounted to $38,685,000, compared with $42,636,000 for the corresponding period one year ago.

Company's balance sheet as of Nov. 29 last lists cash-on-hand at $15,817,600; production inventories at $48,709,331; fixed assets at $98,838,104. Current liabilities were $32,866,142. Capital and surplus, less Treasury stock, totaled $126,160,449.

Six Warner Directors Up For Reelection Today

Six of Warner Brother's 11 directors will be up for reelection at the annual stockholders meeting to be held today at Wilmington. They are: Harry M., Jack L. and Albert Warner, John E. Bierwirth, Waddill Catchings and Robert W. Perkins.

Stockholders will be asked to vote also on a proposal to reduce the capital of the corporation by canceling 107,180 shares of Treasury stock.

37½-Cent WB Dividend

The board of directors of Warner Brothers Pictures has declared a quarterly dividend of 37½ cents per share, payable April 5 to stockholders of record on March 5.

Exchange Raises

(*Continued from page* 1)

worked a half-day on Saturday, with a 40-hour week maintained by giving them four hours off earlier in the week.

Companies involved are Universal, RKO Radio, United Artists, 20th Century-Fox, Republic, Loew's, Columbia, Warners and Paramount.

Five Pictures Cited For Academy Award

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 16.—"The Bishop's Wife," "Crossfire," "Gentleman's Agreement," "Great Expectations" and "Miracle on 34th Street" will fight it out for recognition as the best picture of 1947 in the annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award competition, according to the nominating ballot results announced here. Other nominations, greeted by professional Hollywood as surprising in many instances follow:

For best performance by an actor: Ronald Colman in "A Double Life"; John Garfield, "Body and Soul"; Gregory Peck, "Gentleman's Agreement"; William Powell, "Life With Father"; Michael Redgrave, "Mourning Becomes Electra."

Best actor in supporting role: Charles Bickford, "The Farmer's Daughter"; Thomas Gomez, "Ride the Pink Horse"; Edmund Gwenn, "Miracle on 34th Street"; Robert Ryan, "Crossfire"; Richard Widmark, "Kiss of Death."

Best performance by an actress: Joan Crawford, "Possessed"; Susan Hayward, "Smash Up"; Dorothy McGuire, "Gentleman's Agreement"; Rosalind Russell, "Mourning Becomes Electra"; Loretta Young, "The Farmer's Daughter."

Best actress in supporting role: Ethel Barrymore, "The Paradine Case"; Gloria Grahame, "Crossfire"; Celeste Holm, "Gentleman's Agreement"; Marjorie Main, "The Egg and I"; Ann Revere, "Gentleman's Agreement."

Best achievement in direction: Henry Koster, "The Bishop's Wife"; Edward Dmytryk, "Crossfire"; George Cukor, "A Double Life"; Elia Kazan, "Gentleman's Agreement"; David Lean, "Great Expectations."

Best-written screenplay: Richard Murphy, "Boomerang"; John Paxton, "Crossfire"; Moss Hart, "Gentleman's Agreement"; David Lean, Ronald Neame, Anthony Havelock-Allen, "Great Expectations"; George Seaton, "Miracle on 34th Street."

10 New Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

"If You Knew Susie," Palace; "The Pearl," Sutton.

Loew's State has changed over to first-run temporarily with "Killer McCoy," which is heading for a very good $45,000 in a first week; figure is described as comparable to the best weekly "take" by the house when vaudeville was on the program. At the Rivoli, "To the Ends of the Earth" got off to a fairly good start, with $52,000 expected for its first week. A good $83,000 is expected for the first week of "Three Daring Daughters," plus Horace Heidt's band on stage, at the Capitol.

'Paradine' Still Strong

Among hold-overs, best performances are being rendered by "The Paradine Case" plus a stage presentation, at the Music Hall, where a sixth and final week looks like a solid $126,000; "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," and Lionel Hampton's band on stage, at the Strand, which is heading for a robust $54,000 for a fourth and final week. "I Know Where I'm Going," at the Sutton, is very good with $6,000 in store for a 26th and final week. Holding up well enough are "The Bishop's Wife," Astor, 10th week, $33,000; "Gentleman's Agreement," Mayfair, 14th week, $34,000; "Body and Soul," Globe, 15th week, $16,500; "I Walk Alone," with singer Andy Russell on stage, at the Paramount, in a fourth and final week, $60,000.

$19,000 for 'T-Men'

At other places business is expected to shape up as follows: "T-Men," Criterion, fourth and final week, $19,000; "You Were Meant for Me," plus Louis Armstrong's band on stage, Roxy, third and final week, $76,000; "The Fugitive," Victoria, eighth and final week, $10,000; "A Woman's Vengeance," Winter Garden, third and final week, $15,000; "Night Song," Palace, third and final week, $14,000; "Holiday Camp," Park, fourth week, $6,500; "A Miracle Can Happen," Warner, second week, $16,000. First week of "Miracle," erroneously reported last week as due to bring in $47,000, actually grossed a disappointing $17,000.



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TOP PICTURES RELEASED...TO BE RELEASED

IN RELEASE

THE SWORDSMAN

starring LARRY PARKS
with ELLEN DREW

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR



COMPLETED

THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI

starring RITA HAYWORTH
ORSON WELLES



IN RELEASE

ALEXANDER DUMAS'

THE PRINCE OF THIEVES

starring JON HALL

CINECOLOR



COMPLETED

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S

THE BLACK ARROW

starring LOUIS HAYWARD · JANET BLAIR



IN RELEASE

TWO YEARS TO MAKE!

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

starring DICK POWELL · SIGNE HASSO



COMPLETED

THE STRAWBERRY ROAN

starring GENE AUTRY and CHAMPION

CINECOLOR



IN RELEASE

I LOVE TROUBLE

starring

FRANCHOT TONE · JANET BLAIR



COMPLETED

THE MATING OF MILLIE

starring GLENN FORD · EVELYN KEYES



COMPLETED

THE SIGN OF THE RAM

starring SUSAN PETERS

Alexander Knox · Phyllis Thaxter · Peggy Ann Garner
Ron Randell · Dame May Whitty · Allene Roberts



COMPLETED

THE FULLER BRUSH MAN

starring

RED SKELTON · JANET BLAIR



IN RELEASE

RELENTLESS

starring ROBERT YOUNG
MARGUERITE CHAPMAN

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR



IN PRODUCTION

THE GALLANT BLADE

starring LARRY PARKS · MARGUERITE CHAPMAN

CINECOLOR



...AND PRODUCED...BY COLUMBIA IN 1948

COLUMBIA PICTURES

IN PRODUCTION

THE MAN FROM COLORADO



starring GLENN FORD · WILLIAM HOLDEN

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

IN PRODUCTION

LULU BELLE



starring

DOROTHY LAMOUR · GEORGE MONTGOMERY

IN PRODUCTION

THE RETURN OF OCTOBER



starring GLENN FORD · TERRY MOORE

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

IN PRODUCTION

CORONER CREEK



starring

RANDOLPH SCOTT · MARGUERITE CHAPMAN

CINECOLOR

IN PRODUCTION

THE LOVES OF CARMEN



starring RITA HAYWORTH · GLENN FORD

COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

IN PRODUCTION

LET'S FALL IN LOVE



starring

DOROTHY LAMOUR · DON AMECHE

TO BE PRODUCED

THE LAST 30 MINUTES



starring GLENN FORD

TO BE PRODUCED

ANNA LUCASTA



OVER 2 YEARS ON BROADWAY!
TRIUMPHANT NATION-WIDE TOUR!

TO BE PRODUCED

THE WRANGLER



starring SONNY TUFTS · BARBARA BRITTON

CINECOLOR

TO BE PRODUCED

BORN YESTERDAY



IN 3RD GREAT YEAR ON BROADWAY!

TO BE PRODUCED

WALKING HILLS

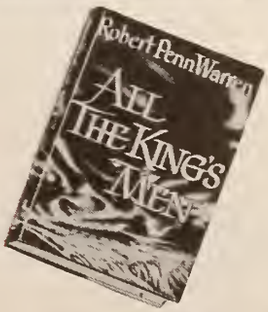


starring

RANDOLPH SCOTT · WILLIAM HOLDEN
ELLEN DREW

TO BE PRODUCED

ALL THE KING'S MEN



ROBERT PENN WARREN'S
PULITZER PRIZE NOVEL

terrific grosses

LOS ANGELES... Sensational day-and-date holdover runs at Orpheum, El Rey, Vogue, Culver, Belmont, Million Dollar and Apollo!

NEW YORK... Loew's Criterion indefinite long run for top B'way business against blizzard, zero cold!

CHICAGO... Two Terrific weeks at State-Lake blast Old Man Winter out of the Loop!

BUFFALO... Smash two-week engagement at 20th Century in sub-zero temperature!

PHILADELPHIA... Three roaring weeks, with first stanza breaking house record at the Stanton!

BIRMINGHAM... Biggest non-holiday opening in 6 months sets terrific pace at Melba!

HARTFORD... Topped the town at the Strand against wintery blasts!

ATLANTA... Scores smashing box-office session at Paramount!

BOSTON... Paramount and Fenway day-and-date best Boston business in many weeks!

PORTLAND... "T-Men" scores in Maine at the Civic against worst weather in years!

ATLANTIC CITY... Ran 30% ahead of top winter resort season grosses at the Hollywood!

SPRINGFIELD, MASS... Beat all recent top attraction weeks in 6 days of first week at Capitol!

SAN FRANCISCO... Blazing first week at the St. Frances brings show business back to Golden Gate!

OKLAHOMA CITY... Holdover stanza at Warner after biggest first week gross in months!

tell the terrific boxoffice story of...

TERRIFIC, TOO... in San Diego... Fall River... Wilmington... New Bedford... Pasadena... Portland, Ore... Charlotte... and scores more across the map!



EDWARD SMALL presents

T-MEN

starring DENNIS O'KEEFE with MARY MEADE • ALFRED RYDER • WALLY FORD
JUNE LOCKHART • CHARLES McGRAW • Produced by AUBREY SCHENCK • Directed by ANTHONY MANN
Written by John C. Higgins • Suggested by a Story by Virginia Kellogg • An EAGLE LION FILMS Release

EAGLE LION

....The whole Industry is Talking about "T-MEN"....

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 33 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1948 TEN CENTS

Kearns Hints 'Collusion' in Studio Strike

Congressman Asks Proof To Contrary at Hearing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—In the face of a warning by Representative Carroll D. Kearns, chairman of a House labor sub-committee investigating the Hollywood jurisdictional strikes, that he intended making a finding of the fact that the present dispute is the result of a conspiracy "between company and IATSE officials", representatives of the motion picture industry today rose strongly to combat the contention.

In testimony at the opening of the House sub-committee's hearings, Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, asserted that he advocated closing Hollywood studios in 1946 as a means of forcing the warring unions to settle the jurisdictional strike among themselves. This statement followed a

(*Continued on page 5*)

WB Stock Retired, Directors Reelected

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 17.—Stockholders of Warner Brothers pictures met here today, elected directors and approved a plan instituted by directors in December, 1947, to retire 107,180 shares of common stock, thus reducing capital surplus by $535,900, from $37,010,900 to $36,475,000.

Reelected to the board of directors for a two-year term, commencing today, were Harry M. Warner, Albert Warner, Jack L. Warner, Waddill Catchings, Robert W. Perkins and John E. Bierwirth.

Former Federal Judge Hugh M. Morris, who presided at the meeting,

(*Continued on page 4*)

U-I Sets 24 for Next Nine Months

A new Universal-International schedule calling for the release of 24 productions in the next nine months was announced here yesterday by W. A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager, at a conference of the firm's Eastern sales force at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria.

"Black Bart" and "The Naked

(*Continued on page 4*)

Flat Rental Damage Award For 1st Time

BOSTON, Feb. 17.—Establishing a precedent, a special master found that both flat rental and percentage damages arising out of a charge of alleged fraudulent percentage returns were suffered by a distributor. The report was filed in U. S. District court here today on two percentage actions instituted in November, 1944, by Loew's and Paramount.

The master pointed out that the issue of flat rental damage is one of "novel impression, no case involving such a claim having been adjudicated so far as the parties have been able to ascertain."

Defendants were Fred E. Lieberman and various affiliated corpora-

(*Continued on page 4*)

CBS Is Building Large Video Plant

Construction is now underway on what is described as the nation's largest television studio and plant, Frank Stanton, president of Columbia Broadcasting System, announced here yesterday at the new studio site in the Grand Central Terminal Building. A major step in the company's plan for building a nationwide television network, the new studios and their facilities will occupy more than 700,000 cubic feet, it was declared.

First programs from the new studios are scheduled in April, even though construction will still be in progress. Included in the expansion of the broadcast schedule is an ex-

(*Continued on page 4*)

U. S. IS READY TO TAKE UP U. K. TAX

Youngstein Named E-L Vice-president

Max E. Youngstein yesterday was elected vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and exploitation of Eagle-Lion Films by the company's board of directors. Youngstein has been director of those three departments since the inception of the company in the fall of 1946.



Max E. Youngstein

Youngstein entered the industry as general manager for the Hal Horne Organization in 1941. With the absorption of the latter by 20th Century-Fox in 1942 he became assistant director of advertising-publicity for 20th-Fox. He served as publicity director of the motion picture section of the U. S. War Finance division from 1944 to 1946, when he joined Eagle Lion. He is president-elect of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers.

TOA Feb. 26 Meet Postponed to March 9

In order to permit the maximum attendance of directors and officers, the Theatre Owners of America's meeting originally scheduled for Feb. 26-27, has been postponed to March 9-10. It will be held at the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles.

Ambassador Douglas Is Said To Be Prepared To Open Talks at Once

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Indications that the American government is prepared to take up the problem of the Dalton film tax directly with the British government here became apparent in high-level circles today.

Informed officials said that American Ambassador William O. Douglas, who is expected in London momentarily, will open discussions with the UK government on the film tax immediately.

Many regard the development as the most promising occurrence since enactment of the film tax last August and believe it may be the real "break" in the impasse which has been hoped for on both sides for months. White-

(*Continued on page 2*)

Allied Bd. Against MPF Participation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Disapproval of participation in the Motion Picture Foundation was voiced here today by the board of directors of Allied States Association. At the same time, the board decided to intensify its three-pronged drive against Ascap.

In expressing its position on MPF, the board also expressed disapproval of its chairman and general counsel, Abram F. Myers, becoming a trustee-at-large of the industry welfare organization, Myers reported at the end

(*Continued on page 4*)

'Arch of Triumph'

[*Enterprise-UA*]— Gripping Drama of Pre-War Paris

THE long-awaited and much-discussed "Arch of Triumph" turns out to be a gripping, somber drama of the romance of an Austrian refugee surgeon in Paris in 1938 and his vengeance upon a Nazi factotum who had tortured him and driven him from his homeland. It has, in fact, very little besides its title and stars to distinguish it from many another ably produced and acted screen drama.

For the Erich Maria Remarque novel has been transferred to the screen in a way which, despite its many good features, suggests no problems of production or release which might not be encountered in equal or greater measure in almost any other best-selling novel of recent years. However, here it is, at long last, and all that seems pertinent now

(*Continued on page 5*)

TOA Units Voting On ASCAP Rates

Theatre Owners of America units throughout the country are polling members on whether or not they favor acceptance of the new Ascap theatre music tax rates, which TOA leaders negotiated.

Support of the new rates, it is said, cannot be given by the local units without a majority vote of each in favor of acceptance of the Ascap increases.

Personal Mention

GRADWELL SEARS, president of United Artists, is expected back in New York today from Hollywood.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON, president of Motion Picture Association of America, has applied for approval by the Civil Aeronautics Board to become a director of United Air Lines.

•

NAT LIEBESKIND, who recently entered distribution in Mexico in association with MAX GOMEZ, is in Havana for about a month.

•

STANLEY SHUFORD, Paramount advertising manager, is back in New York from a vacation at Montego Bay, Jamaica.

•

GEORGE JENKINS, art director for Samuel Goldwyn Prod., and IRVING REIS, director, will leave here for London March 1.

•

SOL A. SCHWARTZ, RKO Theatres vice-president and general manager, and MRS. SCHWARTZ, will leave here today for the Coast.

•

DAVID COPLAN, United Artists managing director in Great Britain, is in Ottawa.

•

WILLIAM M. PIZOR, Screen Guild Prod. foreign manager, will leave here today for Chicago.

•

J. J. UNGER, United Artists general sales manager, has returned to New York from a Western tour.

•

HERB COPELAN, in charge of Warner Theatres for Latin America, left here yesterday for Havana.

•

W. STEWART MCDONALD, Warner Theatres executive, left New York yesterday for Chicago.

New Audio Plant in Full Operation Now

TORONTO, Feb. 17.—Audio Pictures Laboratories and studios are back in full operation after the recently opened plant was damaged by fire last Thursday, Arthur Gottlieb, president, reported here today. No one was injured in the fire.

Damage was held to a minimum by fireproof construction, Gottlieb said, adding that no negatives were lost, nor were exchanges inconvenienced.

W. Montague Resigns From Metro Newsreel

Resignation of W. P. Montague, Jr., editor of Metro News, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's overseas newsreel, was confirmed here yesterday by George Muchnic, vice-president of Loew's International.

Montague is succeeded by Arthur L. Field, who is also supervisor of the company's synchronization studios in Europe.

Canada Votes Down Proposed Import Ban

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—Parliamentary efforts to have Canada's dollar-saving regulations applied against imports from the United States and other dollar countries, thus exempting the United Kingdom, were voted down in the House of Commons by a margin of seven votes after Finance Minister Abbott said the restrictions would actually help Britain.

Netherlands Would Raise Taxes 25%

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—A Netherland government proposal for a 25 per cent increase in the tax on theatre admissions has met with strong criticism from motion picture theatre owners, who regard it as a serious threat to their ability to stay in business, the U. S. Commerce Department reports here.

Motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden states that while the present 20 per cent tax is borne by the public, the new 25 per cent increase would have to be absorbed by exhibitors since the government has thus far refused to permit any further increase in admission prices.

The government proposal was actually a recommendation to the various municipal councils, which have the right to refuse to levy a tax recommended by the central government. Although this local discretionary power is rarely used, Golden declares, "it is significant that several municipalities have already announced their unwillingness to go along with the government on the new entertainment tax."

Toronto Houses Hit By Power Shortage

TORONTO, Feb. 17.—Theatres and radio stations were affected here today and last night when the Toronto Hydro Electric Commission, without warning, shut off all power at intervals to conserve electricity. Many theatres displayed signs warning that performances might be disrupted.

The city is under partial blackout to conserve power. In answer to protests, public utility authorities pointed out that the situation was more critical because the cold weather had reduced the water flow at hydro electric plants.

WB To Seek Appeal In Goldman Decision

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17.—Warner Brothers plans to carry the recent U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the William Goldman antitrust suit to the Supreme Court, it was indicated today by Warner counsel here in a disclosure that the company expects to file a petition for a writ of certiorari this week.

26 Columbia Chiefs To Meet Here Feb. 25

A meeting of 26 Columbia district managers and home office sales executives and department heads has been scheduled for Feb. 25-27 at the Hotel Warwick, New York. A. Montague, general sales manager, will preside. Branch managers from the three unsupervised exchanges will also attend.

On the agenda will be a discussion of sales and liquidation of current product as well as the formulation of plans for a number of future productions.

Also present from the home office will be Rube Jackter, Louis Astor, Louis Weinberg, Irving Wormser, Maurice Grad, George Josephs, H. C. Kaufman, Joseph Freiberg, Vincent Borelli, Irving Sherman, Sydney Singerman, and Seth Raisler.

Attending from the field will be Nat Cohn, Sam Galanty, Jerome Safron, Carl Shalit, B. C. Marcus, Harry Rogovin, R. J. Ingram, Jack Underwood, Harry Weiner, J. C. Bullwinkle, Phil Fox and Ben Lourie.

US Ready

(*Continued from page* 1)

hall definitely is more hopeful now than it has been for some time.

Ambassador Douglas's intervention is expected to be an authoritative endeavor to reconcile the widely separated positions on the film tax of Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the one hand, and Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, on the other.

It is learned here that Johnston and Fayette W. Allport, MPAA European manager, during the latter's recent visit to the United States, held detailed discussions with Ambassador Douglas on the tax impasse in Washington. It is generally conceded in interested quarters here that one of the important obstacles to progress toward a compromise on the tax heretofore has been the fact that Allport did not possess plenipotentiary authority.

Diplomatic circles now point out that Ambassador Douglas is qualified to discuss the problem on the government level, over MPAA heads. This, it is said, raises the hope that a "possible third way" may emerge, particularly the possibility that motion pictures may be classified as "Marshall Plan incentive goods."

Well-informed circles agree on the necessity for evolving a formula which would save face for both sides. In view of the heavy injury already inflicted on both the American and British industries, it is felt to be urgently desirable that Ambassador Douglas assist with the invention of the formula.

Cancel Ship Convention

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 17.—Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana has cancelled previous plans for a mid-summer convention aboard a Great Lakes cruise ship. There was sufficient support for the plan but insufficient cash deposits on time, it was explained.

Newsreel Parade

POPE PIUS speaking on atomic power, Gov. Dewey making a campaign speech, and Winthrop Rockefeller's wedding mark newsreel highlights in current releases. Other items include sports and human interest topics. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 14—Gov. Dewey raps Administration's peace policy. Ohio River ice jam. Greek goverr troops battle Communists. Rome: Pius XII talks on atomic power. Winthrop Rockefeller marries Barbara Sears. World table-tennis tournament. Paris: Middleweight boxing championship. Switzerland: American Olympic bobsled team.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 248—Cinderella romance. Pope Pius warns of atom bomb. The war in Greece. Appeasement of Stalin scored by Gov. Dewey. Winter Olympic's finale hail drivers in bang-up show.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 51—First flood of 1948. Winthrop Rockefeller weds his Cinderella. Gov. Dewey opens campaign. First pictures of Irish election. French-Spanish frontier reopened. Pope Pius talks on atomic power. Table-tennis in England. Winter Olympics farewell to Switzerland.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 118—Ice hockey and figure skating highlight 1948 Olympic round-up. Cinderella weds Rockefeller in simple ceremony. Gov. Dewey urges stronger U. S. foreign policy. Ice-choked rivers menace eight states. $500,000 damage in Canadian fire.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 53—Winthrop Rockefeller takes a bride. Gov. Dewey campaigns in Boston. Grandmas haul a mean car. Children of Lidice. Spanish-French border reopened. Olympic finals.

Move to Ease Kansas Shipping Problem

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 17.—Inquiry into the feasibility of establishing a central film shipping point in Midwestern Kansas for film distribution as a means of economizing on time, number of prints and transportation costs in serving exhibitors in the Western part of the state, was set in motion at a Phillips Hotel meeting here of the directors of the Kansas-Missouri Theatre Association, headed by Homer Strowig.

The proposal would make it unnecessary for prints to be sent the extra hundred miles or so back to Kansas City, and would make it possible to redistribute them.

A committee consisting of Strowig, George Baker, C. E. Cook, Robert Shelton and Senn Lawler was named to confer with distributors, exhibitors, film delivery men and others on the project.

The board discussed a program of regional meetings to start in early Spring, and legislative matters before the Missouri assembly. The next annual convention of the association was set for Oct. 5-6 at the Hotel Muehlebach here.

Strowig to Try for Legislature

ABILENE, Kan., Feb. 17.—Homer Strowig, president of the Kansas-Missouri Theatres Association, will be a nominee for the state legislature at the Republican primaries in August, to represent Dickinson County.

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M-G-M HITS ARE WEATHER-PROOF!



M-G-M presents "GREEN DOLPHIN STREET" starring LANA TURNER VAN HEFLIN • DONNA REED RICHARD HART • Frank Morgan Edmund Gwenn • Dame May Whitty Reginald Owen • Gladys Cooper Screen Play by Samson Raphaelson Based on the Novel by Elizabeth Goudge • Directed by VICTOR SAVILLE • Produced by CAREY WILSON • A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

M-G-M presents SPENCER TRACY LANA TURNER • ZACHARY SCOTT in "CASS TIMBERLANE" Tom Drake • Mary Astor • Albert Dekker • Screen Play by Donald Ogden Stewart • Adaptation by Donald Ogden Stewart and Sonya Levien • Based on the Novel by Sinclair Lewis • Directed by GEORGE SIDNEY • Produced by ARTHUR HORNBLOW, JR. • A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

M-G-M presents MICKEY ROONEY BRIAN DONLEVY • ANN BLYTH in "KILLER McCOY" • JAMES DUNN • Tom Tully • Sam Levene Screen Play by Frederick Hazlitt Brennan • Based on a Story and Screen Play by Thomas Lennon, George Bruce and George Oppenheimer Directed by ROY ROWLAND Produced by SAM ZIMBALIST • A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

M-G-M presents "GOOD NEWS" (*Technicolor*) • JUNE ALLYSON PETER LAWFORD • Patricia Marshall • Joan McCracken • Ray McDonald • Mel Torme • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Screen Play by Betty Comden and Adolph Green Based on the Musical Comedy by Lawrence Schwab, Lew Brown, Frank Mandel, B. G. DeSylva and Ray Henderson • Directed by CHARLES WALTERS • Produced by ARTHUR FREED • A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

Give Generously For American Brotherhood Week!

Additional Academy Award Nominations

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—Nominations for the annual awards of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, in addition to those published yesterday, follow:

Best original screenplay: Sidney Sheldon, "The Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer"; Abraham Polonsky, "Body and Soul"; Ruth Gordon, Garson Kanin, "A Double Life"; Charles Chaplin, "Monsieur Verdoux"; Sergio Amidei, Adolfo Francis, C. G. Viola, Cesare Zavattini, "Shoeshine."

Best original story: George Chaperot, Rene Wheeler, "Cage of Nightingales"; Herman Clyde Lewis, Frederick Stephani, "It Happened on Fifth Avenue"; Eleazar Lipsky, "Kiss of Death"; Valentine Davies, "Miracle on 34th Street"; Dorothy Parker, Frank Cavett, "Smash-Up."

Best art direction and set decoration (black and white): "The Foxes of Harrow"; "Great Expectations."

Best art direction and set decoration (color): "Black Narcissus," "Life with Father."

Best cinematography (black and white): "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," "Great Expectations," "Green Dolphin Street."

Best cinematography (color): "Black Narcissus," "Life With Father," "Mother Wore Tights."

Best film editing: "The Bishop's Wife," "Body and Soul," "Gentleman's Agreement," "Green Dolphin Street," "Odd Man Out."

Best scoring of a musical picture: "Fiesta," "Mother Wore Tights," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Road to Rio," "Song of the South."

Best scoring of a dramatic or comedy picture: "The Bishop's Wife," "Captain from Castile," "A Double Life," "Forever Amber," "Life With Father."

Best original song: "Gal in Calico," "I Wish I Didn't Love You So," "Pass That Peace Pipe," "You Do," "Dip a Dee Doodah."

Best sound recording: "The Bishop's Wife," "Green Dolphin Street," "T-Men."

Best special effects: "Green Dolphin Street," "Unconquered."

Best cartoon: "Chip an' Dale," Disney; "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Mouse," M-G-M; "Pluto's Blue Note," Disney; "Tubby the Tuba," Paramount; "Tweetie Pie," Warner.

Best one-reel shorts: "Brooklyn U.S.A.," Universal; "Goodbye, Miss Turlock," M-G-M; "Moon Rockets," Paramount; "Now You See It," M-G-M; "So You Want to Be in Pictures," Warner.

Best two-reel short: "Champagne for Two," Paramount; "Climbing the Matterhorn," Monogram; "Fight of Wild Stallions," Universal; "Give Us the Earth," M-G-M; "A Voice Is Born," Columbia.

Best documentary (feature): "Design for Death," RKO; "Journey Into Medicine," U. S. Department of State; "The World Is Rich," British Information Service.

Best documentary (short): "First Steps," United Nations Division of Films and Visual Information; "Passport to Nowhere," RKO; "School in a Mailbox," Australian Information Bureau.

WB Stock Retired

(*Continued from page* 1)

discussed a drop in box-office receipts and indicated further economies by the company would continue.

Profits for the six months ending Feb. 28, Judge Morris said, are estimated at approximately one-half the profit of the corresponding period last year.

An operating profit drop of the company due to the British confiscatory tax has not yet been felt, Judge Morris stated. Although no American-made motion pictures have been sent to Britain since the imposition of the tax, unreleased pictures already there as well as a number of pictures released in prior years and available for reissue have continued to bring in revenue.

No improvement has been noted in the outlook for the foreign market and film rentals overseas continue to show a decrease compared with last year. Every effort is being made to induce the British government to eliminate the tax and substitute a partial blocking of funds, it was said.

News Briefs . . .

Frohlich Completes Testimony For Mason in Rose Suit Here

Louis Frohlich, of the law firm of Schwartz and Frohlich, yesterday completed his presentation of testimony in behalf of actor James Mason in the trial before Federal Judge John C. Knox in U. S. District Court here of the cross-complaint breach-of-contract actions brought by Mason and producer David Rose. Hearing will resume today with presentation of testimany in behalf of Rose by his attorney, Robert Persinger.

Among the evidence presented yesterday was a stipulation by Universal executive Matthew Fox that 'U' was compelled to cancel tentative picture-making deals with Mason because of the actor's memorandum agreement with Rose who sued Mason when the latter refused to enter a deal with Paramount. Mason, charging that his agreement with Rose was not binding to that extent, is suing to have his pact with Rose voided.

Jones, Bateman Flying to Chicago for SGP Meetings

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—John J. Jones, president of Screen Guild Prod., and F. A. Bateman, assistant treasurer and general sales manager, will leave here today by plane for Chicago to attend the annual board of directors and franchise holders meetings at the Blackstone Hotel on Thursday through Saturday. Bateman will start a tour of exchanges after the sessions.

Winston Loewe Is Appointed Eagle-Lion Dallas Manager

William J. Heineman, Eagle-Lion distribution vice-president, has appointed Winston Loewe Dallas branch manager, effective Feb. 23. He will work under supervision of Clair Hilgers, district manager.

Marti Renews with Monogram

Rafael Marti, head of Tropical Films, San Juan, who for a number of years has been Monogram's distributor in the island and in the Dominican Republic, has renewed his firm's contract with Monogram International and has left by air for Puerto Rico.

Walsh Pledges "IA" Support To Local Heart Ass'n Drive

The current fund-raising drive of the Heart Association of New York will receive the full cooperation of the Metropolitan New York IATSE locals, Richard F. Walsh, "IA" international president, has announced. Walsh's pledge followed an appeal for the support of entertainment industry unions made by newspaper columnist Ed Sullivan who is chairman of the drive.

Thomas Murtha, business agent of "IA" local No. 4, Brooklyn, has been named by Walsh to head a special heart drive committee which includes also Solly Pernick, business agent of Local No. 1, and Sal Scoppa, business agent of Local No. 52.

Tevlin in Roach Executive Post

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17.—C. J. Tevlin has been appointed executive vice-president of Hal Roach Studios, it was announced today by Hal Roach, Jr. Tevlin was president of General Service Studios from 1934 to 1947.

At the same time, Roach disclosed that the recent expansion and re-equipment of the plant has enabled the studio to offer independent producers production facilities and financial assistance.

Para. Branch Manager in Memphis on Absence Leave

MEMPHIS, Feb. 17.—L. W. McClintock, Paramount branch manager here, has taken a leave of absence because of illness and will go to California for a rest. Tom Bridge, company sales manager at Dallas, will become acting branch manager at Memphis.

Copeland, Scott, Mason Feted in K. C. on Leaving the Business

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 17.—Ray Copeland, Paramount branch manager here; Ward E. Scott, 20th-Fox district manager, and O. K. Mason, who has sold his interest in Commonwealth Theatres, were feted by the industry of this area yesterday to mark their retirement from the business.

24 from U-I

(*Continued from page* 1)

City" are February releases; "A Double Life," "Casbah" and "Jassy," March; "All My Sons," "Are You with It?" and "Dear Murderer," April; "Another Part of the Forest" and "Letter from an Unknown Woman," May; "River Lady," "The White Unicorn" and "The Brain of Frankenstein," June; "Up in Central Park," "Man Eaters of Kumaon" and "The Wonderful Race at Rimrock," July; "Tap Roots," "Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" and "Ma and Pa," August; "The Saxon Charm," "One Touch of Venus" and "Fame Is the Spur," September; "Kiss the Blood Off My Hands" and "Washington Girl," October.

"Jassy," "Dear Murderer," "The White Unicorn" and "Fame Is the Spur" are J. Arthur Rank films.

Allied Bd.

(*Continued from page* 1)

of a day-long session. However, the board asserted that Allied members have local autonomy on such an issue and can do as they please, he said.

Referring to the recent rates announced by Ascap after conferences with Theatre Owners of America executives, Myers declared: "The TOA settlement doesn't change our stand one bit." He indicated that the Allied executive committee would make recommendations to Allied members between now and March 15, when the new rates go into effect, on whether to accept the terms of the rates.

"We may protest to the Justice Department, we may take another course of combat, or we may go along with these rates but continue the long-term fight," Myers said.

He said that if the Berger case were decided in favor of Ascap, and the Lewis bill to curb Ascap still is not passed, National Allied would give Berger financial and legal help to appeal the decision.

The board affirmed the principle of the "war chest" plan, Myers stated, but ordered the executive committee to consider "certain suggestions" to modify the plan, and to report its conclusions to the board of directors by mail. "With these modifications," he said, "the plan will be financially feasible and workable in every way." He refused to discuss the suggestions, saying, "Why telegraph all our punches to Ascap?"

Rauland: Theatre Video 5 Years Away

Chicago, Feb. 17.— E. N. Rauland, head of the Rauland Television Co. here, estimates that it will be another five years before large screen television will be ready for any extensive use by theatres.

Rauland's statement came as a surprise in view of the fact that his company, many believe, was farthest advanced with development of a large screen television method for theatres. Several of the major film and theatre companies are known to be interested in the Rauland experiments and so is J. Arthur Rank of London, who visited Rauland here last year.

CBS Video Plant

(*Continued from page* 1)

tension from the present five-day schedule to seven. The CBS-New York television programs will continue to be transmitted to stations outside the New York area by way of coaxial cables and radio relay circuits, it was disclosed.

Flat Rental Award

(*Continued from page* 1)

tions. Theatres involved were the Tremont, Normandy and Bijou in Boston, the Square in Medford, and the Uphams Corner in Dorchester. The cases were tried before Phillip A. Hendrick, as master, under an order of reference made in October, 1946.

The master found that there was a plan to make false returns of gross receipts from various theatres operated by the defendants.

In the Loew's case the master found that, in submitting incorrect reports on percentage pictures, the purpose was to induce Loew's to grant licenses for subsequent flat rental pictures at prices below those which it would have set had it known the true receipts from percentage pictures. In the Loew case the master's report finds that Loew's sustained damage of $13,275 on its percentage pictures, and an additional damage of $13,600 on its flat rental pictures, a total of $26,875.

In the Paramount report, the master found that Paramount sustained $1,725 damage on its percentage pictures, but that there were too few percentage pictures involved and the alleged under-reporting at certain theatres on the few percentage pictures involved was too isolated to indicate that Paramount was misled in pricing its flat rentals.

Kearns Hints

(*Continued from page* 1)

declaration by committee chairman Carroll D. Kearns (R.-Pa.) that previous testimony indicated that the jurisdictional strike which began in September, 1946, was probably the result of collusion between the producers and IATSE.

"Unless you have evidence to the contrary to submit to my sub-committee," the chairman said, "it is my intention to make a finding of the fact that the present labor dispute in Hollywood is the result of a lockout by the employers after having conspired with certain officials of the IATSE to create incidents which would make it impossible for the members of those unions affiliated with the conference of Studio Unions to continue to work in the studios."

Johnston, a former member of the longshoremans' union of the American Federation, told Kearns his conclusions were "incorrect" and said he hoped Kearns "still had an open mind on the subject."

Johnston also called upon Congress to require unions to arbitrate and settle jurisdictional disputes before "picket lines form and work has stopped," and asked for legislation that would compel the inclusion in all union-management contracts of clauses pledging the unions to peaceful arbitration of inter-union strife.

Asks Hollywood Arbiter

Hollywood should have its "own paid arbitrator picked by the unions," so that the unions would have confidence in the arbitrator, he declared.

RKO president N. Peter Rathvon assured Kearns that he has "entered into no conspiracy with Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, nor had any other company president," while MPAA attorney Burton Zorn flatly called Kearns' statement "one of the most extraordinary . . . ever made by the chairman of a Congressional committee." The chairman, he continued, had no proof of the guilt of the producers. "There is no proof," he said, "because there is no guilt."

After stressing the gravity of "my proposed findings," Kearns later remarked that he was "not blaming anyone" until the hearings were concluded.

Committee counsel Irving McCann attacked the producers for "not acting with honor" when they refused to recognize the painters union in the March, 1945, dispute over 47 set decorators, and charged IATSE with having "encroached on the work of every other union in Hollywood."

"There is evidence in the record," McCann said, "that IATSE wanted to take over the work done by the other unions and the companies had to give into IATSE or else close the studios."

Rathvon Denies Conspiracy

Under repeated questioning by McCann, Rathvon denied participating in any acts of conspiracy at the time when producers decided to keep the studios open rather than close them in an effort to force the unions solve the dispute. He admitted that during this period the studios "undoubtedly made a move from time to time which was in the direction of IATSE rather than any other union," but insisted that this was "strategy rather than conspiracy." He ascribed this policy to the fact that Walsh did a great deal "to enable us to keep the studios open," whereas, he added, William Hutcheson, head of the Carpenters union, "at no time had any consideration for the producers or for the employes of the motion picture companies."

The House unit also heard Paul Dullzell, head of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, outline his union efforts to set up a system of arbitration for jurisdictional strikes with the AFL. Dullzell indicated that most of the blame for failure to inaugurate such a system was Hutcheson's, since the Carpenters' leader had not appeared at the meeting held here last May to discuss working out such a system.

Hutcheson, who was scheduled to appear as a witness this afternoon, was unable to appear due to his wife's illness. Kearns said he expected Hutcheson to appear in the first week of March.

Tomorrow's witness schedule calls for several company presidents, Kearns said, but he did not know who would appear. Among industry officials present today were: Maurice Benjamin, B. B. Cahane, W. C. Michel, Barney Balaban, John J. O'Connor, Carroll Sax, Charles S. Boren, Pat Casey, Austin C. Keough and Y. Frank Freeman. Representing labor were L. P. Lindelof, Richard Walsh, Herbert Sorrell, Painters' counsel George E. Bodle, Carpenters' counsel Zack Lamar Cobb, and IATSE counsel Judge Matthew Levy.

'Arch of Triumph'

(*Continued from page* 1)

is whether or not the time lapse has dulled its box-office potency. The millions who read the novel will not have forgotten it, though the urgency of seeing its story may be dulled and, certainly, the Paris scene on the eve of World War II is less compelling to many today than it was a year or more ago.

Ingrid Bergman, as the Parisian romantic interest, and Charles Boyer, as the refugee surgeon, are names that command box-office authority. In combination with the title, and other of the picture's assets, it is certain to be a strong draw up and down the line.

Boyer, with neither passport nor doctor's license, is a hunted man, continually in danger of arrest and deportation from France. He befriends Miss Bergman after her lover has died and obtains employment for her as a night club singer. Friendship ripens into love but they are unable to marry because of Boyer's illegal status in the country.

During the gay interlude on the French Riviera, the two have their first quarrel over attentions paid to Miss Bergman by Stephen Bekassy, as a wealthy playboy. Back in Paris, Boyer is caught by police and deported to Switzerland. During his absence, Miss Bergman becomes Bekassy's mistress. On his return to Paris, there is an attempt at a reconciliation but, valuing her new-found luxuries, the girl is unable to make a complete break with Bekassy.

Boyer, meanwhile, has encountered Charles Laughton, who plays Haake, the Nazi, and concentrates upon revenging himself upon his one-time persecutor. Although Boyer's intent appears to be to murder Laughton, circumstances lead him to kill the Nazi in self-defense, instead.

On his return to Paris from his gruesome mission, Boyer is summoned to a hospital where Miss Bergman has been taken, critically wounded by Bekassy in an attempt to stop her from returning to Boyer. She dies, proclaiming her love for the latter and Boyer returns to his quarters where, war having been declared, he is rounded up with other refugees and headed for a concentration camp.

Lewis Milestone's direction is uneven, lagging in some spots but, on the whole, exacting the most from the numerous dramatic high spots. Milestone and Harry Brown wrote the screenplay, which has caught the essentials of the Remarque novel but which appears to be a little weak in maintaining continuity and complete coherence in incidentals. Despite this, the editing and cutting, reportedly done on the grand scale, shape up as major achievements.

David Lewis produced and, while few sets are genuinely outstanding, the elaborateness of the production is not to be denied. The settings are numerous and varied; the cast is large and distinguished and the credit list the same.

Bergman and Boyer acquit themselves impressively in roles that are not wholly sympathetic and in situations and surroundings, such as cheap hotel and bar rooms, that are depressingly sordid. Also, there is an apparently unneeded reference to abortion, and illicit relations are treated in the most casual manner. Laughton is little in evidence and not too happily cast as a bestial Nazi lieutenant. Louis Calhern, as a White Russian friend of Boyer's contributes an engaging characterization. Minor roles are well handled by Ruth Warrick, Roman Bohnen, Ruth Nelson, J. Edward Bromberg, Curt Bois and Art Smith. For those who care there are also a couple of appearances by Mike Romanoff.

Despite the Riviera and night club scenes, gayety is almost completely absent. The story runs from one tragic or oppressive sequence to another and over all hangs the heavy atmosphere of the impending war and the fate of its early victims. The widely known title and marquee names will have to be depended upon to do the major part of the selling job.

Running time, 120 minutes. Adult classification. Release, March special.

SHERWIN KANE

Eleven More Pictures Given Legion Ratings

Five of 11 films reviewed by the National Legion of Decency have been classified A-I; they are: "Bill and Coo," Republic; "Flashing Guns," "Rocky" and "Song of the Drifter," all Monogram, and "The Wreck of the Hesperus," Columbia. Rated A-II were "Open Secret" and "Take My Life," both Eagle-Lion; "The Pearl," RKO Radio; "Saigon," Paramount, and "To the Ends of the Earth," Columbia.

Republic's "Campus Honeymoon" was placed in Class B.

Pickets RKO in Utah In Film Buying Tiff

Salt Lake City, Feb. 17.—Irving Gillman, owner of United Intermountain Theatres, buying and booking combine with 25 houses, created a stir on Film Row here when he had the RKO Radio branch picketed in protest against the company's alleged refusal to grant his combine product for the past 19 months.

He charges that rentals are too high and that RKO and other exchanges are trying to break up his organization.

Pittsburgh Area Has 616 Theatres

There are 616 theatres, with an aggregate seating capacity of 382,768, currently in operation in the Pittsburgh exchange area, according to the Pittsburgh theatre directory compiled by the Motion Picture Association of America.

The 27th in a series of 31, the Pittsburgh directory reveals that there are 81 theatres, with a total seating capacity of 69,331 in the city of Pittsburgh, or an average of 856 seats per house.

In the territory, there are one or more theatres in operation in 323 towns. Slightly more than one-fourth, or 167 of the area's theatres, are located in towns with a population of 2,500 and under. These theatres account for a total seating capacity of 55,895, or an average of 335 seats per house, according to the MPAA survey.

Poster Group Chicago Meet Set for March 13

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 17.—The newly formed Associated Theatre Poster Exchanges will hold its first meeting in Chicago on March 13, it was revealed here by Don Swartz, secretary-treasurer of the organization. Counsel will be engaged and a report on processing materials will be presented at the meeting.

The ATPE was organized recently in Chicago at a meeting of poster exchange operators. Mitchell Pantzer, Philadelphia, is president, and Jay Schrader, Charlotte, is vice-president.

'Miracle' to Rivoli

Jesse L. Lasky's "The Miracle of the Bells," RKO Radio release, will have its world premiere at New York's Rivoli Theatre as its next attraction.

Pillot Leaves Col.

Leo Pillot, handling special events for Columbia Pictures, has resigned to become personal representative for Sid Caesar, now starring in "Make Mine Manhattan," on Broadway.

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Kearns Defers Altering Stand On Coast Strike

Awaits Testimony from Hutcheson, N. M. Schenck

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—While asserting that testimony presented by company officials in current hearings on the Hollywood jurisdictional strike by the House Labor sub-committee "breaks down" much of the testimony given previously on the West Coast by subordinates as to responsibility for the studios' labor policy, Rep. Carroll D. Kearns, chairman of the House unit, today refused to indicate whether the new findings had changed his mind on indications of collusion between the producers and IATSE leaders.

The Congressman added, however, that his conclusion would depend upon testimony from two more "key witnesses," Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, and William D. Hut-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Three Get Stock Trading Privileges

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Securities and Exchange Commission has granted the request of the Los Angeles Stock Exchange to extend unlisted trading privileges to three motion picture companies: Republic, for common stock of 50 cents par value; 20th Century-Fox, for common stock of no par value, and RKO, for option warrants to purchase common stock and for $1 par value common stock.

Steady Increase in Canadian Imports

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—Continuing a trend shown for the whole of last year, imports of films into Canada increased during Dec., 1947, from $136,000 in the corresponding 1946 period to $234,000.

Film imports—mostly from the U. S.—totalled $2,828,000 during all of 1947, compared with $2,418,000 in 1946. In the last complete pre-war year of 1938, imports totalled only $1,318,000.

CEA Sees Closings Caused by Embargo

London, Feb. 18.—An indication of the serious plight in which some exhibitors will find themselves if the American film embargo continues is revealed in a Cinematograph Exhibitors Association report, which states that if matters continue as at present, by the summer theatres will close in considerable numbers, and by September the production branch of the industry will be in difficulties.

Early this year W. R. Fuller, CEA secretary, predicted theatre closings by the end of January.

Quota Bill Goes to U. K.'s Lords Today

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The Cinematograph Films (Quota) Bill, which has passed through the report stage and third reading in the House of Commons without a single division, will go to the House of Lords tomorrow.

The government still has made no fresh concessions and still refuses to accept an amendment moved by Oliver Lyttleton in which he sought to write into the bill the assurance given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade that the exhibition quota for British films to be fixed next July would be the minimum during the full 10-year life of the Bill.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade Belcher resists the amendment on the grounds that no one can foretell the future. The government has hoped that the flow of films produced in Britain would steadily increase and it would undertake to raise the quota year by year.

G-B's 50% Dividend Cut Startles London

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Reduction of the interim dividend on Gaumont-British ordinary (common) stock from five per cent in 1947 to two and a half per cent this year has shocked the financial market here. An additional disappointment is that the new dividend covers 15 months instead of the customary 12. While the financial market appreciated that the box-office recession would inevitably affect the G-B dividend, it was unprepared for such a deep cut.

Gaumont-British shares promptly fell from 15 shillings and six pence (about $3.12) to 14 shillings (about $2.80). Last year's boomtime stock touched 29 shillings (about $5.80).

Ainsworth Is Allied Head

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—William L. Ainsworth, president of Wisconsin Allied, yesterday was elected president of national Allied to succeed Jack Kirsch by the national organization's board of directors, meeting here.

Trueman T. Rembusch was moved from his former post of secretary to replace Ainsworth as treasurer, and Charles Niles was elected the new Allied secretary.

Stanley Kane was named recording secretary, and Abram F. Myers was re-elected board chairman and general counsel.

The meeting expanded the membership of the executive committee. In addition to re-electing Sidney Samuelson, Nathan Yamins, M. A. Rosenberg, Kirsch, and Martin G. Smith, the board also named Benjamin Berger, Ainsworth and Ray Branch. Myers is an ex-officio member of the committee.

All officers and committees are elected for one year under Allied's constitution.

Lantz Offers Plan To Aid Cartoons

Cartoon producer Walter Lantz has suggested to United Artists, distributor of his shorts, that the "rank-and-file" exhibitors be asked to augment the average $1-per-day cartoon short rental which they now pay for Lantz product with the price of two admissions. The extra amount suggested would be added to the rental.

Asserting here yesterday that adding the price of two admissions to whatever the rental may be would cause no hardship to the exhibitor. Lantz, who is president of the Cartoon Producers Association, said that if his plan were applied by all cartoon distributors the cartoon industry could meet the high costs of production and assure exhibitors of an uninterrupted flow of cartoon product.

Cartoon production costs, 95 per

(*Continued on page* 5)

Jackson Park Decree Hearing on Tuesday

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Judge Michael Igoe has postponed the hearing on the Jackson Park decree originally scheduled for Friday until Tuesday in U. S. District Court here in order to give uninterrupted time to the case. The court at that time will pass on Jackson Park attorney Thomas McConnell's petition for contempt action against defendant distributors and circuits.

Allied Probe Of 'Coercion' By Companies

Ainsworth Will Appoint Special Study Committee

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—National Allied will get to work on a campaign against what it describes as "distributor coercion" of exhibitors into paying unreasonably high film rentals, Allied's mid-winter board meeting decided today, in its final session.

Board chairman and general counsel Abram F. Myers said that newly-elected Allied president William L. Ainsworth would shortly name a "special committee on distributor coercion" to investigate complaints of various types of pressure put on exhibitors to pay high rentals, get all the evidence, study the situation, and decide what to do about it.

He cited as typical instances of this "coercion" campaigns by phone or mail among theatre-goers urging them to call their local theatre and ask the exhibitor to play the films of a particular

(*Continued on page* 5)

Trials of 10 Are Delayed to March 8

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Trials of the 10 Hollywood writers and directors charged with contempt of Congress have again been postponed, for about two weeks so that defense attorneys can summon House Un-American Activities Committee Chairman Thomas as a witness. Thomas is ill in Walter Reed Hospital here.

The U. S. District Attorney's Of-

(*Continued on page* 5)

California Theatres Faced with Blackout

San Francisco, Feb. 18.—A brownout, and possibly a blackout, faces California theatres due to power shortages, Governor Warren informed theatre executives here today.

Daylight saving time also may be adopted, temporarily, to alleviate the situation. Theatres have pledged support.

Personal Mention

JOSEPH BERNHARD, Film Classics president, will return here over the weekend from Hollywood.

•

WALTER COMPTON, former publicity manager for Loew's Ohio and Broad in Columbus, O., has returned to that city from Hollywood after several years as a studio publicist.

•

HENRY NEEDLES, Warner Theatres district manager in Hartford, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Hartford Rehabilitation Workshop.

•

JACK LEVIEN, Warner Pathe News editor, will be one of three judges at the annual Press Photographers Association contest at the Hotel Astor here on Feb. 29.

•

E. O. GILBERT has resigned as manager of the Strand Theatre, Berlin, N. H., and has been succeeded by ERRON FLETCHER, manager of the Albert.

•

SIR PHILIP WARTER, Associated British Picture Corp. chairman, will sail from England on the *SS Queen Elizabeth* today for New York.

•

EDWIN KNOPF, M-G-M producer, and GEORGE CUKOR, director, will leave here today for England on the *SS Queen Mary*.

•

LOUIS A. NOVINS, assistant to Paramount president BARNEY BALABAN, is due back in New York next Wednesday from Hollywood.

•

STANLEY KRAMER, president of Screen Plays, Inc., and GEORGE GLASS, vice-president, are in town from the Coast.

•

ARTHUR B. KRIM, Eagle-Lion president, left here yesterday for the Coast. He will stop off in Chicago and Dallas en route.

•

EDWARD STEVENS, Eagle-Lion booker in St. Louis, and FRENCH S. MILLER have been appointed E-L salesmen in that exchange.

•

ED MCCORMACK, former manager of the Music Box Theatre, New Britain, Conn., has become manager of the Grand in New Haven.

•

FRANK J. DOWNEY, M-G-M manager in Detroit, will leave here tomorrow for his headquarters.

•

VOLDEMAR VETLUGUIN, M-G-M studio story executive, will leave New York Feb. 27 for the Coast.

•

B. G. KRANZE, Film Classics general sales manager, is in Boston from New York.

•

JACK NEEDHAM, 20th Century-Fox salesman in Columbus, O., for the past 27 years, has retired.

News Briefs . . .

Ten Ad Art Chiefs on AMPA Luncheon Dais Tomorrow

Ten motion picture company advertising art directors will occupy the dais at the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' "Salute to Movie Art Directors" luncheon-meeting which will be held at the Town Hall Club here tomorrow, it is announced by Vincent Trotta, chairman of the affair. Paul Smith, art director of D'Arcy Advertising Co., will be the principal speaker.

Invitations have been accepted by the following film art directors: Hal Burrews, M-G-M; Lew Shanfield, 20th-Fox; Charles Strobol, Paramount; Ed Walsh, Warners; Stanley Sherwin, RKO Radio; Herb Jaedicker, United Artists; Jack Meyers, Columbia; Harold Gutman, Universal; Robert Hadley, Eagle-Lion, and Nicholas Demanzuk, Republic. Special guests will be Marilyn Buferd, "Miss America of 1946," and Carol Ohmart, "Miss Utah of 1946." Phil Williams, acting president of the AMPA, will preside.

NCA Advises Against Any Ascap Payments

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 18.—Charging that the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers is doing business in North Dakota in violation of the state law which compels the organization to file a list of members' works with the secretary of state, North Central Allied is advising theatre owners in the state to refuse to pay Ascap "anything now or ever" as a music performance license fee.

NCA reports information from Thomas Hall, North Dakota state secretary, reveals Ascap has not filed a list of its numbers since 1943.

Industry Representatives at Premiere of 'Arch of Triumph'

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 18.—Among industry representatives attending the dual world premiere of "Arch of Triumph," at the Colony Theatre here, and the Paramount in Palm Beach, were: Nicholas Schenck, Jack Cohn, Joseph Hazen, Si Fabian, J. Meyer Schine, Louis Schine, Barney Balaban, Walt Disney, George J. Schaefer, Larry Pinanski and Walt Disney.

Johnston Again at White House

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Motion Picture Association of America president Eric Johnston called at the White House today. This time he went with American Federation of Labor economist Boris Shiskin to invite President Truman to speak at the Conference on Family Life, which will be held here in May.

Assails M-G-M Prize Novel

Rev. Alfred Barrett, professor at Fordham University here, yesterday attacked "Raintree County," by Ross Lockridge, Jr., which was awarded the $125,000 prize in M-G-M's novel contest, as "1,066 pages of rank obscenity, blasphemy and sacrilege." He spoke at the Critics Forum on Catholic Thought on Best Sellers.

MPAA's Nebraska School Film Experiment Termed Success

OMAHA, Feb. 18.—The "Nebraska Project," undertaken to discover the value of selected educational films in rural high schools, has shown "a great measure of success," it was reported here tonight by Roger Albright, director of educational services of the Motion Picture Association of America, in an address before the women's division of the Chamber of Commerce.

He said that the pictures are proving a boon to teaching in the Nebraska schools selected for the experiment.

Girl Scouts Ask Aid of Theatres; Bamberger, Skouras Cooperate

In connection with the celebration of its 36th birthday, on March 12, the Girl Scouts of the U. S. are requesting theatres to cooperate in recruiting 500,000 women volunteers to lead Girl Scout troops and organize new troops. Leon J. Bamberger of RKO Radio, and motion picture adviser to the Scouts, stresses the fact that there is to be no appeal for funds.

Through the cooperation of Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, a special trailer has been prepared to aid the drive.

Potential Television Audience Of 31,000,000, Says Phillips

Television now has a potential audience of approximately 31,000,000, Lawrence Phillips, director of DuMont Network, declared in an address before the Advertising Women of New York. He asserted that last month 181 major advertisers used commercial television facilities. He predicted that by the end of the year a possible 50 stations will be in operation.

Rose Takes Stand Today

Producer David Rose is scheduled to take the stand today in U. S. District Court here in the trial of the cross-complaint breach-of-contract actions brought by him and actor James Mason. Principal witness yesterday was Edwin Davis, former attorney for Paramount in England, who gave evidence on the nature of the Mason-Rose agreement around which the trial centers.

Files $129,000 Damage Action

Charging violation of certain rights allegedly granted in a Feb. 11, 1947, reissue distribution contract and failure to deliver prints, Harold Schwarz, representing Tower Pictures, yesterday filed a $129,000 damage action in U. S. District Court here against Magnus Films, Jacques Grinieff, Paul Broder, Broder Releasing Corp., Herman Greenfield and Masterpiece Productions.

German Agfacolor Report

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. — A report on techniques used in the manufacture of Agfacolor film has been issued by the Office of Technical Services, Commerce Department.

Mississippi Bill Would Cut Taxes 11%

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 18. — The state senate here has passed a bill reducing the Mississippi theatre tax admission from 13 to two per cent. Senator Farese said $1,338,000 in taxes would be saved by theatre-goers during the next two years.

Improve Promotion, Hal Chester Asks

The answer to declining grosses lies in better merchandising and exploitation, Hal E. Chester, president of Chester Productions, Inc., independent releasing through Monogram-Allied Artists, asserted here yesterday. In New York on his honeymoon, the 26-year-old producer has acquired screen rights to several Craig Rice comedy mysteries and also an option on the author's stories for the next 10 years. The first production will be "The Sunday Pidgeon Murders," which will star Michael O'Shea.

Chester suggested the use of a sliding scale of admissions based on the cost and entertainment value of films, and this, he said, largely could be determined by test runs.

Chester will leave for Bermuda in a few days and return to Hollywood at the end of the month. He has been producing the "Joe Palooka" films. His next release will be "Smart Woman" with Constance Bennett and Brian Aherne.

$500,000 Annually in Egyptian Remittance

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. — Arrangements have been made for eight major U. S. film distributors to convert into dollars up to 35 per cent of their current Egyptian pound earnings, plus 35 per cent of funds blocked during the last six months of 1947, according to a U. S. Commerce Department report.

The report, prepared by motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden, estimates that on the basis of present rates, the eight companies will receive about $500,000 per year from current earnings, and immediate remittances of about $250,000 from accumulated balances. Funds have been blocked since exchange control legislation was enacted last July.

The entire situation will be reviewed again in April, according to the Golden report, "with a view toward possible upward revision."

Variety Cancer Gift

BOSTON, Feb. 18.—A gift of $40,000 has been given by the Boston Variety Club to the Children's Hospital here to establish the nation's first children's cancer foundation. The presentation was announced at a dinner at the Hotel Statler at which M. Murray Weiss, retiring chief barker, received the first annual "Great Heart Award" in recognition of his efforts in instituting the Variety Club Research Foundation.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor; Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor. Published daily, except Saturdays Sundays and holidays, by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address: "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Martin Quigley, Jr., Vice-President; Theo J. Sullivan, Vice-President and Treasurer; Leo J. Brady, Secretary; James P. Cunnngham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; David Harris, Circulation Director; Hollywood Bureau, Yucca-Vine Building, William R. Weaver, Editor; Chicago Bureau, 120 South La Salle Street, Editorial and Advertising. Urben Farley, Advertising Representative. Washington, J. A. Otten, 814 South Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington, Va. London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1. Hope Burnup, Manager, Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, published every fourth week as a section of Motion Picture Herald; International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

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Kearns Defers

(Continued from page 1)

cheson, president of the Carpenters' union. Schenck's appearance has been indefinitely postponed because of illness, while Hutcheson is expected by Kearns to appear within the next few days.

Kearns' statement came after four more company officials followed the tenor of testimony presented yesterday by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Association of America, and RKO president N. Peter Rathvon. Both film executives denied conspiracy with IATSE in the decision to keep studios open in September, 1946.

Paramount president Barney Balaban and vice-president Y. Frank Freeman, 20th Century-Fox executive vice-president William C. Michel, and Columbia vice-president B. B. Kahane all emphasized the fact that the studios had been kept open only as a last-ditch measure to avoid the great financial loss that would have resulted from closing them.

Balaban Denies 'Collusion'

Balaban declared that there had never been any meeting of company presidents to make a decision about keeping the studios open with the help of any particular union. When the presidents had decided to keep the studios open, however, he said it was agreed to give the carpenters every opportunity to work, and if they refused to work, the IATSE would provide the studios with workers.

The Paramount head stated that at first he had sided with Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, in believing that the studios should be closed, but later changed his mind. He said he had "given up many years ago" the hope that the studio jurisdictional strike situation would ever be solved.

Following the procedure established yesterday by the committee chairman, attorneys were permitted to submit questions to witnesses. In reply to a question by George Bodle, counsel for the painters, Balaban said he had "never heard" that representatives of the IATSE had sat with the producers' labor committee when "plans for the mass discharge were worked out."

Expected Hutcheson's Stand

Freeman stated that he and the other company heads had regarded the December, 1945, directive of the three-man AFL committee as a binding contract which had to be followed. But he admitted he had understood from the beginning that Hutcheson, carpenters' president, would not abide by the directive.

"When you kept open," Congressman Owens (R., Ill.) asked, "you then discharged those who had not abided by the contract?"

"That's right," Freeman replied.

Michel told the committee that he "claimed full responsibility for the labor policies and action of 20th Century-Fox." He insisted he had fought Johnston's idea of closing down "tooth and nail" because his company "was in no position to close the studios." He denied cooperation with the IATSE and said he had instructed his Hollywood representatives to "operate as well as they could to keep the studios open."

The producers did not want a strike to occur inside the studio, B. B. Kahane, chairman of the producers' labor committee, told the House subcommittee, but wanted it "outside where there would be no damage to property." He said that the companies had "studiously" called the carpenters in one by one and had "cleared the decks" to get them out of the buildings.

"This is the first time we have been told that the companies planned to get rid of the men," interjected Irving McCann, counsel for the House unit.

Kahane Gives Testimony

Kahane denied any conspiracy in the plan, but said it was "just the means decided on to continue operation." He said the companies had to question all other unions and crafts working in the studios to see if they would go along with the September strategy. All other unions agreed to it, he reported. Had they refused, he explained, the companies would have been forced to close the studios.

Sole labor witness today was William C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, and a member of the three-man group which handed down the American Federation of Labor's directive on the jurisdictional strife. The committee knew, he said, that any decision made by it would not be "totally acceptable" to all the unions. The AFL committee pleaded with the unions to settle the dispute among themselves, he added.

He emphasized the point that, if the committee were called upon again to issue a directive, it would follow the same lines. He also declared that the December, 1945, order "had not been dictated," but that the August, 1946, clarification of the directive had been handed down "pursuant to the instructions of the (AFL) executive council."

The remainder of the company presidents are expected to testify tomorrow, along with Charles Boren, labor relations adviser of the Association of Motion Picture Producers.

Reviews

"All My Sons"

(Universal-International)

GREAT skill and talent in acting, writing and direction combine to make this screen version of the Arthur Miller stage play a professional achievement of well above average merit. As such, theatres may offer it with confidence. The tragic story may not be to everyone's liking but there will be few who can complain honestly that it has not been well told.

Edward G. Robinson, Burt Lancaster, Mady Christians, Louisa Horton and Howard Duff fill the top roles and, under Irving Reis's direction give performances which complement one another like well-meshed gears in a perfectly running machine.

Robinson, who started as a junk man, struggled for 40 years to gain comforts and security for his family and to develop a machine shop to leave to his sons. During World War II he obtains contracts to make engine parts for planes and, under the pressure for production he turns out defective cylinders which cost the lives of American fliers. His partner, played by Frank Conroy, is convicted and sentenced; Robinson is acquitted.

After the war, Robinson's son, played by Lancaster, falls in love with Miss Horton, who had been the fiancee of his older brother, who died in the war. Miss Christians, the mother, opposes the match, believing her eldest son, who had been reported missing in action, to be still alive. Howard Duff, as Miss Horton's brother, whose father was Robinson's former business partner, also attempts to prevent the marriage. Duff has been convinced by a visit to his father that the real guilt for the delivery of the defective plane parts is Robinson's.

Lancaster makes his own investigation of the affair and ultimately obtains his father's confession. Though admitting his responsibility, Robinson is unrepentant, contending it would have meant business failure not to have shipped the defective parts and, therefore, he did it to protect his family. Lancaster decides to break with Miss Horton. She shows him a letter she had received from his brother, written just before his death, which indicates that he had committed suicide because of his father's involvement in the scandal. Lancaster shows the letter to his father and Robinson takes his own life.

The story mounts to several emotional peaks, running smoothly and credibly, despite some essential circumstances not entirely uncontrived. Able support is afforded by Arlene Francis, Lloyd Gough, Elisabeth Fraser and Henry Morgan. Chester Erskine produced and did the screenplay.

Running time, 94 minutes. General classification. Release, April special.

SHERWIN KANE

"Half Past Midnight"

(Wurtzel—20th Century-Fox)

EVENTS in this Sol M. Wurtzel production rush along briskly, in a screenplay filled with stock situations. A modestly-made mystery-drama, the goings-on are spiced with a good deal of slapstick comedy of a popular nature, and earnest performances by Kent Taylor and Peggy Knudsen provide a refreshing lift.

Against a nightclub background of murder and blackmail, the story has Miss Knudsen fall under suspicion for the murder of a Spanish dancer. At this point Taylor, a carefree gent with a knack for getting into trouble, decides to help Miss Knudsen. There follows a whirling merry-go-round, with the police pursuing the young couple, while the latter attempt to track down the real culprit. Added to this is a rivalry between detectives on the case which gives some additional angles. The story and screenplay was by Arnold Belgard. Others in the cast are Joe Sawyer and Walter Sande. William F. Claxton directed.

Running time, 69 minutes. General audience classification. Set for March release.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Improve Technical Film Standards

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—The Society of Motion Picture Engineers has gained for the industry more standards through the American Standards Association than any other industry in the United States, John A. Maurer, engineering vice-president, told the Society's board of governors at its annual meeting, presided over by Loren L. Ryder, president.

Acceptance of these standards by the ASA, Maurer said, is preliminary to their acceptance as international standards by the International Standards Organization of the United Nations. He added that this standardization is saving money for the industry by simplifying production and distribution of equipment.

The SMPE also announced preparation of a technical report in the field of theatre television, and indicated it hoped to carry forth its standardization procedures in this field as well. Results have been awaited from the rehearing before the Federal Communications Commission of the frequency allocations for theatre television use originally obtained from the FCC by Paul J. Larsen and other representatives of the Society.

'IA' Wins Case on 'Featherbedding'

BALTIMORE, Feb. 18.—Charges of "featherbedding"—forcing the hiring of allegedly unnecessary union labor—frequently made by theatre owners, have been dismissed against the IATSE by the regional office here of the National Labor Relations Board. The charges, and those of other alleged violations of the Taft-Hartley Act, were brought by the Children's Museum of Washington, against "IA" Local No. 22.

The Museum, which puts on eight shows yearly at George Washington University's Listner Auditorium, contended in its complaint that it had been forced to use a stage crew to do work which it said could be performed by high school boys. It further contended that Local 22 sought to impose a closed shop and engaged in a jurisdictional strike.

Actors Deny SAG Link To Strike 'Collusion'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18. — Responding to a statement made yesterday in Washington by Rep. Carroll D. Kearns, chairman of a House Labor sub-committee, that he would submit a finding of conspiracy between studio officials and IATSE leaders, Edward Arnold, Robert Montgomery and George Murphy of the Screen Actors Guild today telegraphed Kearns and committee members denying that SAG "aided what Kearns claims was conspiracy between producers and IATSE to lock out members of the Conference of Studio Unions."

"Our very thorough and impartial investigation proved beyond a shadow of doubt no such conspiracy or collusion existed, and that the strike was caused by refusal of carpenters to abide by the impartial arbitration award," they declared. They also laid responsibility for the strike and its continuance to William D. Hutcheson, Carpenters union president.

Allied Probe

(*Continued from page* 1)

company, and cases where salesmen and branch managers of distributors have bought up and operated theatres. "Things like this," Myers stated, "are very suspicions, to say the least. We're going to get to the bottom of them and do something about it. Myers also revealed that Allied would try to have its 1948 convention in Washington, "as a fitting way to celebrate Allied's 20th anniversary." The convention will probably be held here in September, he stated, and a special committee will be set up to work out details.

Allied's spring board meeting will be held in May in Colorado Springs, and the fall meeting in New Orleans, probably in November, Myers declared.

Work of the caravan committee was praised by the board, Myers said, and the committee continued. Sidney E. Samuelson, committe chairman; H. E. Cole and Trueman T. Rembusch were all renamed to the committee, and Irving Dollinger was elected to replace Ainsworth.

Myers refused to give details of the Allied annual financial report, except to say that "Allied is in very good shape financially."

All Allied members, Myers said, will send in to National Allied their campaigns to meet 16mm. competition, and these will be compiled in a master report which will be sent out to all field groups.

Lantz Offers Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

cent of which go for labor, have increased 165 per cent since 1941, but rentals have increased only 15 per cent, Lantz said. Whereas in 1941 it cost $12,000 to produce a cartoon short, today the cost is between $26,000 and $35,000, he added, explaining that if he had not undertaken meanwhile to produce industrial films he would not be able to continue producing for theatres with rentals at their present low level.

Exhibitor reluctance to pay increased rentals, Lantz said, has brought about a 50 per cent reduction in the production of cartoons. This year between 90 and 98 cartoons will be produced, compared to the 190 or more in previous years, he said.

The fact that exhibitors are willing to pay the same rental price for cartoon short reissues as they do for new product, Lantz said, proves two things: that the exhibitor needs shorts to fill his screen time, and that he is unreasonable in his reluctance to help the producer surmount production costs.

Lantz, who will leave here for Hollywood on Sunday following a two-week visit, said he sees "a great future for cartoons in television."

Trials of 10 Delayed

(*Continued from page* 1)

fice was willing to go ahead with Representative McDowell, the next ranking Republican present at the October hearings, as a witness, but defense attorneys insisted on Thomas being available and the District Court granted the postponement to give Thomas a chance to recover and testify.

Under the new schedule, the first trial, that of John Howard Lawson, will open on March 8, instead of Feb. 24, as previously scheduled. All other trials are pushed back a corresponding period.

Reviews

"Caged Fury"

(*Paramount-Pine-Thomas*)

COMPOUNDED of the sort of melodramatics that go into the making of serials, this Pine-Thomas production offers entertainment that will find acceptance primarily among the small fry, who may be depended upon to respond to the vivid goings-on with uninhibited enthusiasm.

The melodrama is played against a circus background that enhances the film's prospects as fare for the younger element. Under the direction of William Berke the picture takes on a suspense which, though artificial, never misses the mark where youth is concerned.

This is primarily the story of a feud between a lion tamer (Richard Denning) and a circus clown (Buster Crabbe), with the latter cast as a villain of the deepest hue. Crabbe brings about the death of a friend, a lady lion tamer (Mary Beth Hughes), in the hope of pursuing a romance with Sheila Ryan, equestrian aspiring to become a lion tamer with his assistance. When Denning, who is in love with Miss Ryan, tries to upset his plans, Crabbe plots to kill him. To gain revenge Crabbe sets fire to the circus, a lion mistreated by him mauling him to death after a terrific set-to with Denning.

The David Lang screenplay follows a well-hoed furrow in piecing the story together.

Running time, 61 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 5. P.E.L.

"Design for Death"

(*RKO Radio*)

GRANTED access to the U. S. Alien Property Custodian's library of confiscated Japanese newsreel and theatrical footage, producers Theron Warth and Richard O. Fleischer have compiled an excellent short-feature documentary on Japan's seven-century degeneration into an aggressor nation of fanatical, suicidal warriors bent on conquering the world. Recounted here is the history of a people whipped and slaughtered by a predatory ruling clique whose pristine brutality persisted over long generations. Scene after scene of furious family wars and peasant rebellions explode upon the screen until finally a mammoth "racket" is devised by the feudal lords when democratic thinking threatens their power. They found that a state religion could be used to dupe common men into killing and dying so the masters could further aggrandize themselves with the spoils of foreign wars.

As the bloody pages of Japanese history come to life on the screen, a forceful commentary, written by Theodor and Helen Geisel and narrated by Kent Smith and Hans Conried, underscores the visible lesson on the dire consequences of too much power in the hands of a few. But, in addition to driving home that point, this turbulent film packs a solid entertainment wallop that alone should entitle it to prominent billing wherever it plays. Commendable background music serves to complement the swift melodramatic pace. Sid Rogell was executive producer.

Running time, 48 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set. CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Adventures of Casanova"

(*Eagle-Lion*)

MORE outdoor adventure and romance has been compressed into Leonard S. Picker's Mexican-made production than the customer can generally get in two or three similar dramas, the venture coming off quite successfully for Eagle-Lion.

The fictionalized screen account of the adventures of that suave rascal, Casanova, has plenty of action and popular appeal, though quite often the plot relies on wide imagination. As for casting, an impressive job has been done, with Arturo de Cordova in the title role; Turhan Bey, as his dashing aide, and Lucille Bremer and Noreen Nash holding up the distaff side.

The period drama records the turbulent times of 18th Century Sicily. With the land crushed under the conquering army of the Emperor of Austria, it falls to Casanova's lot to rally patriotic partisans into guerrilla tactics against the oppressive governor. And as Casanova proves throughout, he is just as adept at swordplay as he is at love-making. Many daring feats and exciting activities pass across the screen before the patriots are successful, and these are usually shown against eye-filling backgrounds. A two-way romance also runs through the plot, but while de Cordova finally wins the hand of the governor's daughter, Miss Bremer, a mortal wound keeps Bey from his fair one, as played by Miss Nash. All perform quite enjoyably, with competent aid coming from George Tobias as a masquerading monk; John Sutton as the velvet-tongued villain, and Fritz Lieber as an insurgent leader. Given brisk direction by Roberto Gavaldon, the film rates well in its classification. Crane Wilbur, Walter Bullock, and Karen DeWolf did the screenplay, from a story by Wilbur.

Running time, 83 minutes. General audience classification. Set for February release. M. H.

Broidy to Premiere

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18. — Headed by president Steve Broidy of Allied Artists, a contingent of stars will leave here to attend the world premiere of the company's recently-completed "Panhandle," to be held in Amarillo, Tex., on March 3.

Show Safe-Driving Short

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. — Washington theatres will support the District's February "Safe-Driving Campaign" with the showing of a short on hazards of winter driving, according to A. Julian Brylawski, head of the local unit of Theatre Owners of America.

Short Subjects

"Make Way for Youth"

(*Association Films*)

Produced by the youth division of the National Social Welfare Assembly, this short is a worthy contribution to the drive against intolerance and discrimination. By playing it the exhibitor will not only be offering a film entertaining in its own right but will be rendering the community a service.

It outlines a youth program to eliminate racial, religious and other barriers, patterned after the one in Madison, Wis. The picture depicts clearly, simply and interestingly various steps in putting the program into operation with the co-operation of all forces in town, its message delivering a directness that is commendable. Melvyn Douglas is narrator.

The footage has been selected by the Civil Affairs Division of the Army for use in its civilian reorientation programs in Germany, Austria, Japan and Korea. Running time, 18 minutes.

"Marriage and Divorce"

(*March of Time—20th Century-Fox*)

The latest March of Time looks at the topic of marriage-and-divorce and comes up with a batch of statistics and several answers to pertinent questions. The subject is a brisk and engrossing one, and calls upon several authorities in the field to stress its points.

Before probing the topic, the film points out that last year's marriages ran over 5,000 daily and statistics indicate that one out of three marriages in 1948 is headed for trouble. The film concludes on the note that marriage, approached intelligently, still promises greater self-realization than any other course in life. Running time, 17 minutes.

"Operation White Tower"

(*This Is America-RKO Radio*)

The story of a scientific expedition to Mount McKinley, highest and coldest peak in North America, is told here by This Is America cameramen. It is an unusual subject of general interest. Before taking the audience to the remote glacier fields of Alaska, the film shows the elaborate preparations necessary for the long trek by air and foot. Among the many highlights are the snowtrails cracked by huge ice pits and crevices. The journey was made by 12 men and one woman of the Washburn expedition. Running time, 18 minutes.

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With unrelenting vigilance, she has inspected every inch of film before each booking...checked it for worn perforations, torn splices, and other signs of wear and tear that might hinder smooth projection and mar the enchantment of the show. By this painstaking care of film and unceasing effort to keep each reel running smoothly, the inspectress has earned a place of importance behind the scenes of motion picture distribution.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 13. NO. 35 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1948 TEN CENTS

TAX PEACE NEAR, PARLIAMENT TOLD

Industry Ends Its Story Of Studio Strike

House Group Will Hear Labor Chieftains Today

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The industry's side of the Hollywood jurisdictional strike situation was completed today when five more film company executives testified before a House labor subcommittee currently holding hearings on the subject. All underlined testimony given by company executives during the two previous days of the hearings, declaring that the decision to keep the studios open in September, 1946, was based purely on financial reasons and was not reached after consultation with any union.

The industry officials who testified today were Herbert J. Yates, president of Republic; Robert W. Perkins, Warner Brothers vice-president and general counsel; Carrol Sax, in charge of labor relations for Warners; John O'Connor, Universal vice-president, and Charles Boren, vice-president in charge of industrial relations for the Motion Picture Association of Ameri-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Ascap Trust Trial Is Expected in a Week

With the termination in U. S. District Court here yesterday of the trial of the James Mason-David Rose cross-complaint breach-of-contract suits, the way was made clear for the court's hearing of the monopoly action brought by the 160-odd New York exhibitors against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Louis Frohlich, of the law firm of Schwartz and Frohlich, counsel for both Mason

(*Continued on page 4*)

Horizon to Produce For M-G-M Release

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—M-G-M has closed a deal with Horizon Pictures, consisting of Sam Spiegel and John Huston, to produce an undetermined number of features independently for M-G-M release. The association is effective April 1, after "Key Largo," for Warner release, is finished by Horizon.

Horizon is the fifth outside source acquired in recent months by M-G-M, the others being Frank Capra, Hal Roach, Merian Cooper and John Ford.

Chicago Tax Yield Is $125,567 for a Month

Chicago, Feb. 19.—The city has thus far collected $125,567 in the first month of its new three per cent amusement tax on January collections, it was reported by comptroller Robert B. Upham, who stated the figure was below the $250,000-a-month which the tax was expected to yield. Some amusement organizations have not yet filed reports, the deadline for reporting on January taxes being March 1.

RKO Steps Up New Chicago Sales Plan

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—RKO Radio, under its new sales plan in compliance with the Jackson Park Theatre decree, here, is now offering "Riff Raff" for immediate booking to all outlying theatres wishing to license it at specified rentals.

RKO recently sold "Tycoon" to 17 theatres day-and-date following a Loop run, and to 25 theatres in the following week. Houses in this instance were hand-picked for test purposes.

"Night Song" and "If You Knew Susie" will be sold on the same basis as "Riff Raff." RKO stipulates, however, that theatres located within a radius of a mile-and-one-half of each other are considered competitive and

(*Continued on page 3*)

New Funds to Push U. S. Film Plans

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The State Department's Overseas Information Program appears likely to get over $30,000,000 during the coming fiscal year—almost three times its current appropriation.

"More than anything else," one budget official said, "our overall budget was designed to get the motion picture division going again. Documentaries have been shown to be more valuable than any other media."

With the expanded program, the department's international motion picture division anticipates showing its films to more than 10,000,000 persons a month.

The question of where private film companies fit into the picture came up today when it was indicated that a House appropriations sub-committee will vote the program $30,000,000 of the $36,000,000 it asked for operations during the year ending June 30, 1949. This is in keeping with the expanded operations authorized by the Smith-Mundt bill. The Senate may increase the total.

But since the greatest part of the allocation is earmarked for personnel, equipment, travel expenses, exchange

(*Continued on page 4*)

Assurance Given by Ex-BOT President As Quota Bill Passes

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Lord Swinton, former president of the British Board of Trade, expressed in the House of Lords today assurance that an *ad valorem* tax solution advantageous to both the U. S. and England will be reached shortly. His statement came with the passage by Lords of the Cinematograph Films (Quota) Bill, which already has passed Commons and which will become law officially when King George VI affixes his signature. MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported on Wednesday that U. S. Ambassador William O. Douglas, who is en route here, will open discussions with the UK government on the film tax immediately on his arrival.

Prior to Swinton's utterance, Viscount Hall declared in Lords during discussion on the bill today that the British government is prepared to agree to modification of the *ad valorem* duty if British films shown abroad achieve dollar earnings required to help ameliorate the nation's dollar shortage.

The British government does not merely want British films *distributed* abroad, but wants them shown abroad *effectively* to bring about real dollar earnings, Hall said, in pressing for passage of the quota bill. Tory oppo-

(*Continued on page 4*)

PCCITO Trustees in Favor of Lewis Bill

SEATTLE, Feb. 19.—Support for the Lewis bill which has been introduced in Congress to have Ascap negotiate with producers on music licensing fees coupled with a resolution backing Ben Berger, Minneapolis theatre operator, in his suit against Ascap was voted here today by trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Indepen-

(*Continued on page 4*)

U. S. Lists Incomes of Top Industry Earners

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Louis B. Mayer was third highest salary earner in the United States in 1945, with $502,571 received from Loew's, according to figures released here today by the Treasury Department.

The salaries listed are gross and do not give effect to large Federal and state income taxes.

The release was a supplemental list of individuals receiving from corporations compensation for personal services in excess of $75,000 during fiscal years ending in 1945 or 1946 and during the calendar year 1945. An earlier list, released in August, showed Charles P. Skouras, president of the National Theatre Amusement Co. to have been the top wage earner, with $568,143. Mayer was top man on the list today.

Motion picture figures dominated today's list even more than they did the August list, with returns listed today from Loew's, Warner Brothers, and Universal, all omitted from the August returns. Twenty-six in the film industry reported more than $200,000 on today's list, compared with only six on the August returns, with many more companies reported in the earlier list than in today's. Salaries paid by RKO during 1945 still have not been reported.

Today's list gave Ginger Rogers the top woman wage earner title. She reported $175,000 salary from Loew's, which, with $117,159 reported in August from Vanguard Films, gave her a total of $292,159. Deanna Durbin moved into the second woman's spot with $262,875 reported from Univer-

(*Continued on page 4*)

No Paper Monday

***Motion Picture Daily* will not be published on Monday. a legal holiday in observance of Washington's Birthday on Sunday.**

Personal Mention

NED E. DEPINET, RKO executive vice-president, will leave here today for the Coast.

•

ERIC JOHNSTON, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, will discuss international economic problems tomorrow night before the Washington, D. C., chapter of the American Banking Institute.

•

ALAN E. FREEDMAN, president of DeLuxe Laboratories here, has been elected Commodore of the Knickerbocker Yacht Club of Port Washington, L. I.

•

MAX MENDEL, Film Classics foreign representative, interrupted his South American sojourn this week to return to New York for special home office conferences.

•

MONTAGUE SALMON, managing director of the Rivoli Theatre, here, will appear on "Candlelight Cafe," WGYN-FM program, Monday at 6 P.M.

•

B. G. KRANZE, Film Classics general sales manager, and AL ZIMBALIST, advertising-publicity director, will fly to Hollywood Monday from here.

•

ANDY W. SMITH, JR., 20th Century-Fox, general sales manager, returned to New York yesterday from West Coast conferences.

•

ISADOR M. RAPPAPORT Baltimore exhibitor, is vacationing at Palm Beach, Fla.

•

R. W WIGHT, of Electrical Research Products, Inc., is in New York from Hollywood.

Levy Answers Myers On MPTOA's Brief

In answer to statements attributed to Abram F. Myers to the effect that the MPTOA *amicus curiae* brief filed with U. S. Supreme Court in the industry anti-trust suit failed to mention that the MPTOA had merged with the ATA, into the Theatre Owners of America, Herman M. Levy, counsel for the TOA, cited this excerpt from the brief:

"Since its filing of a brief *amicus curiae* and being heard in the District Court, this association has merged with another, but its entity was specifically retained for the purpose of making this application to this Court."

Pallos to Hollywood

Steve Pallos, head of Pendennis Productions, Ltd., British production unit, will leave here for Hollywood at the end of next week to obtain two undisclosed actors and a director for his next production, "Venetian Masque." "Teheran," which he made in Italy with a British cast, will be released here shortly by George J. Schaefer, Pallos revealed.

Among other future films on the Pallos production schedule are "Unknown" and "Call of the Blood."

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

WITH all the resources at their beck and call, wouldn't you think it a simple matter to assemble correct and unchallengeable statistics about the operation of the big five companies? Especially when their high-powered attorneys, assembled in impressive and expensive array in Washington, are arguing their clients' position in the Paramount, et al, suit before the Supreme Court. Simple, maybe, but nevertheless not always the case.

"Wild Bill" Donovan, picking up the cudgels of resistance for RKO, had one set covering numbers of theatres arrayed in affiliated theatre ranks and percentages of domestic film rental gross, including Canada, enjoyed by each of the five principal defendants. John W. Davis, lance carrier for Loew's, had another. Judge Joseph Proskauer, valiantly defending Warners, had still a third. Attorney General Tom Clark, on the other side of the fence, of course had his own.

Dealer's choice, therefore.

■

For example, Donovan asserted there were 18,000 theatres in the United States, a figure which will strike many as exceedingly high unless RKO's legal protagonist was referring to *accounts,* not *theatres;* a point, incidentally, which he never made clear for perhaps good and understandable reasons from where he stood.

On his statement, however, Paramount with nine per cent of the total had 2,000 houses; 20th-Fox, at 3.5 per cent, 630; Warner, at 2.77 per cent, 498; Loew's, at .74 per cent, 132, and RKO, at .60 per cent, 108. Nobody bulked them, and so we now do, for a combined 16.07 per cent and 3,368 theatres.

Disagreeing by indirection and never challenging Donovan or anyone else Davis, however, placed the five affiliated circuit holdings at a combined 3,317 whereas Proskauer practically agreed with Donovan when he informed the high bench Warner holdings today were about 500.

■

One of the interesting analyses sprang from Attorney General Tom Clark, understandably inclined to stress his own statistics for obvious effect.

Centering on 1943-44 film rentals, he set forth this: Paramount's return from affiliated circuits was $23,000,000 or 54 per cent; Warner's, $15,000,000 or 52 per cent; Loew's, $27,500,000 or 50 per cent; RKO's, $12,000,000 or 43 per cent, and 20th-Fox's, $18,000,000 or 35 per cent. Committed to the situation in terms of affiliated producer-distributor power and the extent of their dealings with affiliated circuits, the Attorney General never rounded out the picture which we now proceed to undertake on the basis of his calculations.

Paramount, perforce, must have done $18,000,000, or 46 per cent, with unaffiliated houses; Warner, $14,000,000 or 48 per cent; Loew's, $27,500,000 or 50 per cent—a very surprising figure, by the way; RKO, $16,000,000 or 57 per cent, and 20th-Fox, $32,000,000 or 65 per cent, which is even more of a surprise than Loew's.

■

Separately and variously in their arguments on behalf of their clients, what seems to be the statistical fabric of this industry at its topmost levels was divulged further by other lawyers. There was Thomas Turner Cooke, who stated Universal was in reverse position with a reliance on the unaffiliated exhibitor for 58 per cent of its return and only 42 per cent from the five theatre-operating majors. Louis Frohlich went beyond on behalf of Columbia with his statement this company depended on fully 70 per cent of its domestic income from "the little fellow at the crossroads."

On the other hand, Proskauer's breakdown of Warner at-home take credited 14 per cent to the company's own theatres and 25 per cent to the remaining four affiliated chains for a combined total of 39 per cent, which left 61 per cent from independent theatre operation.

■

Conclusions to be drawn from these conflicting sets of figures, of course, could be many. One that stands out, probably above all others, is this: That despite the first, the big and the predominant money which the producer-distributor draws from the first runs largely controlled or operated by affiliated producer-distributors, the independent is a factor of inestimable strength. No distributor can get along without him, regardless of what he may do or say.

NEW YORK THEATRES

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BING CROSBY
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DOROTHY LAMOUR
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with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
PARAMOUNT
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
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SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
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BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
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with ALLYN JOSLYN
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JAMES STEWART
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PLUS ON STAGE
HAZEL SCOTT
RAYE & NALDI
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ROXY
7th Ave. & 50th St.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR
20th CENTURY-FOX
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News Briefs . . .

Jackson Pk. Official Hits Bidding, Booking System

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—An "unreasonable and complicated system" of competitive bidding and booking practices by major distributors and circuits is violating the Jackson Park decree, according to Richard Salkin, manager of the Jackson Park Theatre here. "I don't have a chance when I have to pay the same price for films as a house with twice as much seating capacity, like the 3,000-seat Balaban and Katz Tivoli."

Confusion arising from the decree is expected to be clarified next Tuesday when Judge Michael Igoe will pass a petition for contempt action against theatre circuits and distributors.

Far Eastern Troubles Cause Recall of U-I's Bergher

Recall of Universal-International's supervisor in the Far East, Michael Bergher, because of the chaos in that part of the world does not mean the company will abandon its operations there, nor will it reduce them in any way unless military circumstances warrant. This was brought out at an interview yesterday.

Bergher expressed the hope that in any American loan to China some consideration be given to investments of U. S. film companies in that country. He said Universal is using some of its frozen funds in China to invest in negotiable securities.

Bergher is here for reassignment.

Seven More Apply to FCC For Television Station Permits

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The Federal Communications Commission has received seven new applications for commercial television stations. Applicants are American Republican, Waterbury, Conn.; Indianapolis Broadcasting, Indianapolis; Buffalo Foundation, Buffalo; T-V Inc., Columbus; Cleveland Broadcasting, Cleveland; New England Television Co., Springfield, Mass., and St. Louis.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—California with its 12 authorized television stations and 87 frequency modulation (FM) stations, leads all other states in these fields, according to a survey by the Federal Communications Commission. New York has 10 video and 79 FM stations, while Pennsylvania has six television and 80 FM outlets, the FCC states. Eighteen states are still without any video authorizations.

Loew's Books Louis Film

Four Loew neighborhood theatres in Brooklyn and Harlem will hold world premieres of heavyweight champion Joe Louis' first feature within a few weeks, it is announced by Alexander Productions. Titled "The Fight Never Ends," the film is designed to combat juvenile delinquency. Louis stars.

Utah Theatre Damaged

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 19.—Damage estimated at more than $10,000 was sustained by the Grove Theatre, Pleasant Grove, Utah, last night by a fire and explosion which occurred 10 minutes after manager Keith Miller closed the house for the night.

AMPA "Art Salute" Meeting Today Termed a "Sell-Out"

Virtually all reservations for the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' "Salute to Movie Ad Art Directors" luncheon-meeting, which will be held at the Town Hall Club here today, have been sold out, Phil Williams, acting AMPA president, reports. Ten film company advertising art directors will occupy the dais, and Paul Smith, art director of D'Arcy Advertising Co., will be the principal speaker. Vincent Trotta is chairman of the affair.

Kranze Names Cohen Head Of FC's Capital Exchange

Max Cohen has been appointed head of the Washington, D. C., exchange of Film Classics, by B. G. Kranze, FC vice-president and general sales manager. Ralph de Burgos, former branch manager, will serve under Cohen as exchange sales manager.

Cohen goes to Film Classics from Universal-International, which he had served for 20 years as branch manager in Washington, Pennsylvania and Cleveland.

Compulsory Theatre Parking Lot Bill Due Out of Committee

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 19.—Senator Desmond's office here said his bill requiring owners of theatre buildings hereafter erected in cities to provide off-street parking, including 200 square feet units for each 10 persons of the total seating capacity in theatres, might be reported this week from committee.

No memoranda has yet been filed by theatre interests on the bill.

L. T. Stone Is Named Ascap Assistant Resident Counsel

Louis T. Stone, an attorney with the law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore in this city, has been named assistant resident counsel of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, by Herman Finkelstein, resident counsel.

Four Cuban Awards to M-G-M

The Federation of Cuban Motion Picture Writers, an organization of editors and critics of Cuban newspapers and magazines, has given four awards to M-G-M, one each citing "Sea of Grass" and "Undercurrent" as among the five best films released in that country last year, and awards to Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn for the best performances. Loew's International discloses here.

Neumade Display at Convention

Accompanied by L. E. Jones, sales manager, and G. H. Totten and R. E. Hempel of the sales department, Oscar F. Neu, president of Neumade Products Corp., is in Atlantic City, displaying the company's theatre equipment line at the American Association of Administrators convention.

San Francisco Brown-out

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—A brown-out went into effect here tonight for the first time since the war, with neighborhood and downtown exhibitors voluntarily agreeing to keep off all decorative marquee lights except reader boards.

$6,000,000 Suit Over 440 UA-U Films

Los Angeles, Feb. 19. — American Eagle films, owned by Sam Howard and Louis Berkhoff, have filed a Superior Court suit here asking for $6,000,000 in damages from Jack Broder, Detroit and Los Angeles exhibitor, for the alleged breach of a contract entered into a year ago under which, it is claimed, Broder was to obtain distribution rights of 40 United Artists and 400 Universal reissues, for which the complainants are said to have paid an advance of $250,000.

Renew the Status of Swiss Film Chamber

ZURICH, Feb. 13 (By Airmail).—The Swiss Film Chamber has again been given official status as the sole government department handling motion picture questions for all of Switzerland. The Chamber was given constitutional standing for only one year. Previously it had been given official standing for three-year periods. A reorganization of the Chamber is imminent, hence the one-year period. The Chamber is not a legislative group, but only a consultative one. It consists of a president, a permanent secretary and 24 members, 12 representing cultural organizations and 12 representing the industry. All members are elected by the Government.

New Construction Approved by OHE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The Office of the Housing Expediter has approved the construction of a $154,300 theatre in Olympia, Wash., to be built by Thomas L. O'Leary.

Also approved was a $175,000 expenditure for maintenance and repair of the Fresno Theatre, in Fresno, Cal., and expenditures of $33,000 for repairing a Balaban and Katz theatre in Chicago. Total OHE approvals for the week ending Jan. 30 reached $552,805 for seven theatres, denials were $1,430,200 for 15 theatres.

Construction Begun On Video Station

Work on the television station for *The New York Daily News* has been begun by the Turner Construction Co. The station, which will be atop the newspaper's 36-story building, will be the fourth television station in the New York area.

RKO's Chicago Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

may not play the same picture at the same time. The exhibitor who bids first, plays first.

RKO has designated runs in the following categories: theatres booking the first subsequent run must play a minimum of seven days; second subsequent run, from four to seven days, with a Friday opening; third subsequent run, a minimum of three days, with a Sunday opening.

DEDICATED TO SOUND AT ITS BEST FOR EVERY THEATRE

ALTEC LANSING News

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INFORMATION OF VALUE TO THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

"VOICE OF THE THEATRE" SOUND SYSTEM CHOSEN BY THE ACADEMY AWARD THEATRE TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM SOUND PROJECTION

HOLLYWOOD—To make it possible for the sound directors of the producing companies to hear and judge the sound quality of their respective products under conditions that meet the stringent requirements set by the Academy for sound reproduction, the Academy has installed an Altec Lansing standard A-2 type "Voice of the Theatre" loudspeaker system in the Academy Award Theatre. The studios use the Academy Theatre as a "proving ground" for new products as they are issued, since the theatre provides optimum conditions of sound projection.

The Altec Lansing A-2 and A-2X "Voice of the Theatre" speaker systems are for use with amplifier power up to 80 watts and up to 150 watts respectively. These systems make 100 percent use of the complete frequency range as recorded on the sound track. Ask your supply dealer about the right size "Voice of the Theatre" for your theatre. "Voice of the Theatre" sound systems are supplied as regular equipment by most leading manufacturers of theatre systems.



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ALTEC LANSING CORPORATION

250 West 57th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

Industry Incomes

(*Continued from page 1*)

sal. Both Miss Rogers and Miss Durbin entered the "top ten" national wage earners for the year by virtue of today's returns. So did Walter Wanger, with $282,000 listed from Universal.

Four other women also were tops. Barbara Stanwyck reported $116,666 from Warner's on today's list, which, with $140,000 from Paramount, gives her a total of $256,666. Lana Turner reported $226,000 from Loew's, Bette Davis $221,000 from Warner, and Greer Garson $212,000 from Loew's.

$502,571 to Mayer

Mayer was listed as receiving $159,000 salary from Loew's, and $343,571 commission. Though not on the 1944 list, he was No. 1 wage earner of the U. S. for the previous seven years.

The current report shows that Loew's paid 80 persons $75,000 or more during the year, far more than any other company on either report. Warner Pictures paid 35 persons $75,000 or more, and Universal put 19 names on today's list.

The Loew returns were for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 1945, Warners for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 1946, and Universal for the year ending Oct. 31, 1946.

In addition to the money paid Mayer, Miss Turner and Miss Garson, Loew's paid out these sums (all cases are salary unless otherwise noted): To the late David Bernstein, $93,600 salary, $106,142 commission and $10,600 other compensation, for a total of $210,342; Clarence Brown, $212,000; George Cukor, $213,325; Victor Fleming, $225,250; Sidney Franklin, $201,000; Clark Gable, $229,687; Sam Katz, $202,571 ($159,000 salary, $43,571 commission); Robert Z. Leonard, $212,000; Al Lichtman, $202,571 ($159,000 salary, $43,571 commission); E. J. Mannix, $205,221 ($161,650 salary, $43,571 commission); Robert Montgomery, $226,333; J. Robert Ruhin, $215,657 ($88,400 salary, $111,357 commission, $15,900 other compensation); Nicholas M. Schenck, $224,885 ($105,300 salary, $94,410 commission, $25,175 other compensation); L. Weingarten, $202,785 ($172,250 salary, $30,535 commission).

$223,622 to Blumberg, Cowdin

Universal listed five who received more than $200,000. They were: N. J. Blumberg and J. Cheever Cowdin, each of whom received $117,000 salary and $106,622 other compensation, for a total of $223,622; Miss Durbin, as previously noted; William Seiter, $245,000; Walter Wanger, $282,899 ($62,500 salary, $220,399 other compensation).

Warner Brothers Pictures listed only four salaries over $200,000: Michael Curtiz, $258,600; Errol Flynn, $214,000; Miss Davis, as noted; and Stanley Morner (Dennis Morgan), $261,000. Joan Crawford drew an even $200,000.

Other returns listed on the report follow:

Loew's: Edward Arnold, $102,083; Fred Astaire, $155,578; Lucille Ball, $79,250; Wallace Beery, $100,000; Pandro S. Berman, $182,000; Ray Bolger, $130,000; Edward Buzzell, $92,570; J. J. Cohn, $132,500; Richard Connell, $83,291; Xavier Cugat, $115,341; John S. Cummings, $132,500; Howard Dietz, $78,250 ($65,000 salary, $13,250 other compensation); Jimmy Durante, $98,749; Arthur Freed, $159,000 ($106,000 salary, $53,000 bonus); Leopold Friedman, $104,000 ($93,600 salary, $10,400 other compensation); Tay Garnett, $119,250; Cedric Gibbons, $92,750; Ben Goetz, $81,999; Leon Gordon $99,750 ($86,333 salary, $31,416 bonus). Also *Loew's:* Judy Garland, $141,666; Katharine Hepburn, $198,667; Arthur Hornblow, Jr., $185,500; Jose Iturbi, $103,500; Laraine Johnson, $88,461 ($51,538 salary, $36,922 bonus); Van Johnson, $94,500 ($34,500 salary, $60,000 bonus); Henry Koster, $145,750; Mervyn LeRoy, $182,000; Hedy Lemarr, $130,416; Arthur M. Locw, $82,430 (all commission); J. G. Mayer, $123,000; James McGuinness, $132,500; Lauritz Melchior, $121,770; V. C. Minnelli, $78,000; Frank Morgan, $101,597; C. C. Moskowitz, $119,600 ($102,700 salary, $16,900 other compensation); George Murphy, $119,250; Robert Nathan, $92,250; Joseph Pasternak, $158,250; Walter Pidgeon, $177,191 ($121,125 salary, $56,066 bonus); William Powell, $196,250; Samson Raphaelson, $96,250.

$159,000 for Taurog

Also *Loew's:* Basil Rathbone, $87,666; Everett Riskin, $132,500; Marguerite Roberts, $92,750 ($60,116 salary, $32,633 bonus); Casey Robinson, $131,000; Edward G. Robinson, $110,000; William F. Rodgers, $114,600 ($104,000 salary, $10,600 other compensation); George Sidney, $80,341 ($22,900 salary, $57,441 bonus); Louis K. Sidney, $96,916; Morris J. Siegel, $106,000; Ann Sothern, $111,666; Benjamin Thau, $176,607 ($92,750 salary, $83,757 commission); Richard Thorpe, $92,750; Norman Taurog, $159,000; Spencer Tracy, $146,890; Dalton Trumbo, $84,500; Joseph R. Vogel, $104,000 ($93,600 salary, $10,400 other compensation); Harry Warren, $117,361; Richard Whorf, $75,264; Carey Wilson, $121,000; Robert Young, $122,500; Sam Zimbalist, $139,166.

Andy Russell, Inc.: Andy Russell, $78,491.

Cagney Productions, Inc.: James Cagney, $112,500.

Universal Film Exchanges, Inc.: William A. Scully, $91,000.

Universal International Films, Inc.: Joseph H. Seidelman, $75,400.

Universal Pictures Co., Inc.: Bud Abbott, $174,543 ($143,889 salary, $30,653 other compensation); Maria Montez Aumont, $78,375; George Brent, $187,000; Lou Costello, $188,785 ($158,229 salary, $30,556 other compensation—he reported $99,000 in August, however, from Vanguard); Brian Donlevy, $128,125; Dan Duryea, $100,000; Michael Fessier, $80,025; Matthew Fox, $79,149 ($26,250 salary, $52,899 other compensation); Felix Jackson, $101,333; Jack akie, $150,000; Charles D. Prutzman, $128,299 ($75,400 salary; $52,899 other compensation); Walter Reisch, $129,000; Robert Siodmak, $136,200; Clifford Work, $133,899 ($86,000 salary, $52,899 other compensation).

Warner Bros. Circuit Management Corp.: James E. Coston, $82,727 ($48,300 salary, $29,227 bonus, $5,200 other compensation); I. J. Hoffman, $78,212 ($52,000 salary, $26,212 bonus); Harry Kalmine, $107,343 ($76,550 salary, $20,343 bonus, $10,450 other compensation).

Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc.: Joseph Bernhard, $106,800 ($102,000 salary, $4,800 other compensation); Henry Blanke, $192,916; Humphrey Bogart, $123,291; David Butler, $150,000; Jack Carson, $123,250; Delmar Daves, $89,725; Irene Dunne, $77,500; Charles Einfeld, $81,000; Leo Forbstein, $91,000; Jules Garfield, $84,000; Cary Grant, $89,853; Sydney Greenstreet, $128,000; Paul Henreid, $160,833; Ida Lupino, $128,000; Raymond Massey, $84,000; Claude Raines, $85,000; Irving Rapper, $155,500; Ronald Reagan, $145,833; Samuel Schneider, $87,200 ($73,750 salary, $450 commission, $13,000 other compensation); Ann Sheridan, $133,928; Vincent Sherman, $89,750; Barhara Stanwyck, $116,666; Herman Starr, $78,000; Steve B. Trilling, $78,000; Jerry Wald, $99,175; Raoul Walsh, $173,833; Albert Warner, $104,500 ($91,000 salary, $500 commission, $13,000 other compensation); Harry M. Warner, $182,150 ($182,000 salary, $150 commission); Jack L. Warner, $182,100 ($182,000 salary, $100 commission).

Warner Bros. Pictures Distributing Corp.: Benjamin Kalmenson, $97,600 ($84,600 salary, $13,000 other compensation).

Ascap Trust Trial

(*Continued from page 1*)

and Ascap, said yesterday that he expects the Ascap trial will begin in a week or so, when a trial judge is named.

With the Mason-Rose suit preceding the Ascap litigation on the court's calendar, hearing of the latter was necessarily postponed until Frohlich had dispensed with his handling of Mason's case.

At the conclusion of yesterday's trial, at which Rose was the sole witness, Federal Judge John C. Knox reserved decision on the validity of the Mason-Rose memorandum agreement around which the two-week trial centered. Robert Persinger was trial counsel for Rose.

PCCITO Trustees

(*Continued from page 1*)

dent Theatre Owners. PCCITO counsel, it was reported, will appear as a friend of the court in the Berger case.

The trustees also adopted a resolution vigorously opposing the appearance of any Hollywood star in any picture based on political propaganda.

Next meeting of the PCCITO group will be held April 3-6 in San Francisco.

Patronage of U.K. Films Here Rises

In concluding a final regional sales meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria, W. A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager of Universal-International, cited the increased patronage given to recent J. Arthur Rank productions in the U. S.

In view of this, Scully stated that in fairness to all pictures made in England, exhibitors should screen them before forming judgments as to their box-office potentials.

Tax Peace

(*Continued from page 1*)

sition peers have assured the Labor government of their support of the quota bill and the government's attitude on the American film embargo.

The bill, which abrogates the present renters quota and effects substantial innovations in the existing exhibitor quota, is scheduled to become effective as law on April 1. Among other things, the bill provides, in lieu of present distinctions of long and short films, separate quotas on "first features" and "supporting program features," first features being calculable by the number of days of exhibition and supporting program features on footage.

Hall told the upper house of Parliament that the bill was necessary in view of the British industry's having been seriously impeded by the war and because of the subsequent dislocation which it suffered. "It isn't good," he declared, "that almost all films shown in Britain are products of another country."

The new quota law will remain in effect for 10 years. During its consideration the government refused to accept an amendment offered by Sir Oliver Lyttleton in Commons, through which he sought to write into the bill the assurance given by the Parliamentary Secretary of the BOT that the exhibition quota for British films to be fixed next July would be the minimum during the 10-year period. Government resistance was on the ground that no one can foretell the future. The government has hoped that the flow of films produced in Britain would steadily increase and it would undertake to raise the quota year by year.

U. S. Film Plans

(*Continued from page 1*)

of students and other "programmed" items, State Department officials admit little will remain for paying out-of-pocket distribution expenses of film companies and other information media.

Despite this outlook for the industry generally, the prospect for the department's international motion picture division is fairly bright. The division asked for $2,500,000, and if the entire program gets $30,000,000, it seems certain to wind up with over $2,000,000, compared with $100,000 to $150,000 during the current year.

Among plans for the 12 months starting in July are 60 new films in 26 different languages, slightly more than half of the films coming from private companies, while the others will be produced by the division itself. The division has also asked, for the first time, for funds to operate 60 mobile film units overseas.

Strike Hearings

(*Continued from page 1*)

ca, and former industrial relations manager of Paramount.

Tomorrow's witnesses will be labor union heads, committee chairman Kearns (Rep., Pa.) said. Kearns declined to comment on the progress of the hearings to date, repeating that he would need the testimony of Nicholas M. Schenck and William L. Hutcheson before doing so.

Lays Strife to 'Communists'

The hearings went off temporarily on a new tack when Matthew Levy, attorney for IATSE, stated emphatically that much of the jurisdictional strife was Communist-caused.

"No investigation of the jurisdictional strike can give a complete picture without investigating the part played by Communist infiltration in the studios," Levy said. He added that Communist activity had played on and intensified the causes of the jurisdictional rift.

Chairman Kearns answered vigorously that he would brook no mention of Communism at the current hearings. If anyone gives the committee material on any alleged Communist background to the jurisdictional dispute, he said, he would turn it over to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. If the Thomas committee found evidences of Communist influence, he continued, he would then investigate it from a labor point of view.

Boren refuted charges made by Herbert K. Sorrell, head of the Conference of Studio Unions, who took the stand for a short time and maintained that studio production was "not going on as usual," and that the motion picture studios were "sick."

Boren Explains Production Lag

Sorrell implied that this was due to the strike, but Boren declared that any current abnormal-operation was due to a falling off in the box-office "take" as well as to the 75 per cent British tax which forced studio retrenchment.

Tomorrow's witnesses are expected to be L. P. Lindelof, Painters' president; Richard F. Walsh, IATSE head; Harvey Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists; Joseph Touhey, formerly with the Teamsters Union and now in charge of labor relations for Fox-West Coast Theatres; and Sorrell.

Majors Not Expected To Top 25 in Italy

While major U. S. distributors have ended their understanding to limit themselves to 25 pictures each for the Italian market annually, it is not expected that this figure will be exceeded, according to a Motion Picture Association of America spokesman. It was pointed out that only about 15 pictures were released in Italy by each company under the agreement.

Ascap Juke-Box Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. — Senator Hawkes has introduced in the Senate a bill permitting Ascap to collect royalties on juke box performances where no admission is charged to the place where the machine is played. A House judiciary sub-committee held hearings last year on a companion bill.

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VOL. 63. NO. 36 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1948 TEN CENTS

Atlas' Film Stock Halved During Year

No Longer Lists Loew's, 20th and WB Securities

Atlas Corporation's holdings of film securities were reduced by approximately 50 per cent in a year, from $20,034,371 to $10,110,889, according to the holding company's current report.

During the year, Atlas disposed of its holdings of Loew's 20th Century-Fox and Warner securities.

In addition to the disposition of some of its film stock holdings, the market and book value of other film shares held by Atlas declined during the year.

The Atlas portfolio now includes the following film securities: $231,375 of Walt Disney Prod. bonds; 70,500 common shares of Paramount, listed at $1,515,750; 929,020 common shares of Radio-Keith-Orpheum, at $7,664,415; 327,812 RKO option warrants, at $655,624; 91,700 common shares of Walt Disney Prod., at $275,100.

The previous Atlas report included the following: 2,000 shares of Loew's

(*Continued on page 3*)

L. B. Mayer Bought Rivoli on Broadway

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23.—Louis B. Mayer, M-G-M studio head, has identified himself as the purchaser of the Rivoli Theatre on Broadway, New York. It was purchased, he said, as a personal investment.

Sale of the first-run house was reported two weeks ago. It was said at the time that the sale was subject to an open mortgage of $370,000, held by the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. The property reportedly was held at $1,500,000 by heirs of the late

(*Continued on page 3*)

Appeal Goldman Suit To Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The major film distributors and the various Warner subsidiaries on Friday asked the Supreme Court to reverse the Third Circuit (Philadelphia) Court of Appeals' decision in the Goldman Theatres treble damage anti-trust suit.

The appeal filed by the distributors declared that the lower court's decision, "if unreversed, may well spell the ruin of the motion industry."

Inter-State Sales Taxable: Georgia

ATLANTA, Feb. 23.—Motion pictures sold through Atlanta exchanges for exhibition in other states are taxable in Georgia, the State Court of Appeals has ruled here, in a test case decision involving all film companies operating in the state.

The Court upheld Judge Bond Almand of Fulton Superior Court in dismissing affidavits of illegality filed by 20th Century-Fox against Revenue Commissioner Glenn Phillips.

The commissioner filed attachments against the company for $14,764 alleged to be due on state taxes for 1941-42-43. The company had paid $9,034 in taxes for those years and claimed that was all it owed because its sales in Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida, while made through its Atlanta office, were not taxable in this state.

The company also contended that it did not actually sell films, but merely rented them for exhibition. The Court of Appeals ruled that the company did sell its copyrights and franchises.

Brotherhood Lunch At Astor Today

Annual luncheon of the amusements division of "Brotherhood Week," sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, will be held here today at the Hotel Astor. Some 800 are expected to attend, according to David Weinstock, campaign chairman. Observance started Sunday.

Spyros Skouras is national chairman of the film division, and J. Robert Rubin is national chairman of the amusement division. David O. Sleznick is chairman of production.

The five newsreel companies are in-

(*Continued on page 2*)

Harvey Heads Unit to Plan PCCITO Meet

SEATTLE, Feb. 23.—Rotus Harvey was named general chairman of the forthcoming Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners convention to be held in San Francisco April 5-8, at the final meeting of a PCCITO trustees' four-day session here. The convention committee will also include Hugh Bruen, William Graeper, Jr., L. O. Lukan, Jack Suckstorff, Harold Chessler and Robert H. Poole.

It was also announced that the trustees have drawn up plans for recommendation to its units urging Congressional support of the so-called Lewis bill (H.R. 5014), providing for Ascap to negotiate directly with producers on theatre music licensing fees. fees.

Use Films Against Communism: Nixon

Washington, Feb. 23.—Rep. Nixon, chairman of a House Un-American Activities subcommittee, says the people of this country could be more effectively educated to the dangers of Communism by private media such as the motion picture industry than by any Government agency program. The Nixon unit on Friday ended hearings on methods of curbing the Communist Party. He added, however, that it was difficult for the Government to suggest to private media that they fight Communism without leaving itself open to accusations of censorship and control.

Senate Bill Ending Building Curbs Due

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The Senate is scheduled to pass early this week a bill ending Federal curbs on theatre construction on Feb. 29. Debate started on the measure Friday. However, as expected, March 31 appears far more likely to be the date on which the controls will actually end.

The House this week will pass a simple 30-day extension of the present rent control law, under which the theatre curbs are administered, and the Senate is expected to acquiesce in this step. When the House finally gets around to considering a long-term rent control bill, however, it, too, is expected to favor dropping construction curbs.

Paramount Affiliates Lose Video Protests

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The Federal Communications Commission has turned down the protests of three Paramount subsidiaries applying for television channels against taking testimony from other companies applying for the same channels at a coming FCC hearing.

The protests came from United Detroit Theatres, New England Theatres and Television Productions, applying for stations in Detroit, Boston and San Francisco, respectively. The FCC hearing, set for March 1, is to determine whether Paramount controls these companies and Allen B. DuMont Laboratories and thus already has more than the five-station maximum allowed any one company by the FCC.

Kearns Probe Of Coast Strike In Final Phase

Hutcheson Heard; Await Testimony from Schenck

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. — The House Labor committee's hearings on the Hollywood jurisdictional strike situation are expected to end tomorrow or Wednesday with the testimony of one or two union leaders and company and labor attorneys.

Although chairman Kearns at the weekend heard testimony from one of his two "key witnesses," Carpenters' head William L. Hutcheson, he stuck by his earlier statements that he still needs the testimony of Loew's executive Nicholas M. Schenck before deciding whether to change his opening day charge that the September, 1946, dispute was "probably the result of collusion between the producers and IATSE."

IATSE head Richard Walsh followed Hutcheson to the stand Friday. He denied any collusion between his union and the studios. The committee also heard from other union leaders involved in the dispute—the International Association of Machinists, the Teamsters, and the Operating Engineers.

Harvey W. Brown IAM president, voiced his agreement with the chairman's opening statement and declared: "Producers are responsible for all the losses suffered by all parties in the motion picture industry," arising from the dispute.

Joseph Touhy, labor relations director for Fox West Coast Theatres, who was associated with the Teamsters' union during the strike, denied that his sympathies had been with the producers during the period of the dispute. Committee questioning brought out the fact that Touhy had entered negotiations for his current position during that period.

Lester Wilson, Hollywood representative of the Operating Engineers, testified for his organization.

MPAA to Oppose New Mexican Import Duty

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The Motion Picture Association of America is expected to oppose a proposed increase in import duties on American films to Mexico when it testifies before the Committee for Reciprocity Information Friday. Though the exact amount of the boost has not been made known, industry officials have always considered the recent increase from 20 pesos to 22 pesos only a "stop-gap measure."

Personal Mention

EDWARD MOREY, vice-president of Allied Artists, will leave New York today for Washington, while MAURY GOLDSTEIN, general sales manager, will head for Boston.

•

MAX YOUNGSTEIN, vice-president of Eagle-Lion, so excited over opening business of "The Smugglers," he distributed the bottled variety around the trade press.

•

JOE C. GOLTZ, of the Motion Picture Export Association staff here, and MRS. GOLTZ have become parents of a son, their third child.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M general sales manager, arrived in Chicago yesterday from New York en route to the Coast.

•

MAX MILDER, Warner managing director of production in Great Britain, is due in New York today from the Coast.

•

CHARLES K. STERN, Loew's assistant treasurer, will leave here tomorrow for a Palm Beach vacation.

•

Y. FRANK FREEMAN, Paramount production executive, has returned to Hollywood from New York.

•

ROBERT MOCHRIE, RKO Radio general sales manager, left here at the weekend for the Coast.

•

GRADWELL SEARS, United Artists president, returned here at the weekend from Hollywood.

•

MOE KERMAN, Favorite Films president, left New York over the weekend for the Coast.

•

MERVYN LEROY, M-G-M director, has returned to Hollywood from New York.

Yeshiva Study Fund Headed by Eyssell

Chairmanship of the motion picture industry scholarship fund for Yeshiva University has been accepted by Gus Eyssell, Radio City Music Hall president and managing director, who succeeds George Schaefer in the post.

Among industry executives who will cooperate in this year's drive are Schaefer, Barney Balaban, Dan Michalove, Charles D. Prutzman, Samuel Rosen, Abe Schneider, George Skouras, Nate J. Blumberg, Herman Robbins, Irving Greenfield and Harold Rodner.

Denies Polish Charge

Irving Maas, Motion Picture Export Association vice-president and general manager, characterizes as without foundation, statements credited to Film Polski — Polish film monopoly — charging that it was forced to import American films earmarked by the U.S. State Department.

News Briefs

Avoid 'Masterminding,' Film Advertising Chiefs Are Told

Speaking at a gathering of 125 from the industry at the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers' "Salute to Movie Advertising Art Directors" luncheon-meeting in the Town Hall Club here on Friday, Paul Smith, president of the Art Directors Club of New York, urged film company advertising directors to avoid the "temptation to mastermind the creative work" of their art staffs. When advertising art staffs are subject to last minute changes and other "masterminding" efforts by department chiefs, Smith said, not only does an inferior advertisement result, but costs become higher.

The meeting was presided over by acting AMPA president Phil Williams.

Warter, ABP Chief, Due Here Today for WB Conferences

Sir Philip A. Warter, chairman of Associated British Pictures, associate corporation of Warner's in Great Britain, is due in New York aboard the *Queen Elizabeth* today for a series of conferences with Warner home office and Coast executives.

Sir Philip and Lady Warter will be in New York until March 5 when they will leave for Burbank, California, to meet Harry M. and Jack L. Warner.

Greenthal Ad Agency Will Represent Screen Magazines

Monroe Greenthal Advertising Agency has been named advertising and public relations consultants for the Association of Screen Magazine Publishers, here.

Formed recently to explore common advertising and exploitation problems of screen magazine publishers and the motion picture industry, the association is composed of the following publication groups: Dell, Fawcett, Hillman, Hunter, Ideal, Macfadden.

ITT, Film-Tel Debt Payment Arrangement Is Confirmed

International Theatrical and Television Corp. and its subsidiary, Film-Tel, will continue in business under an amended plan for arrangement of debt payments confirmed in U. S. District Court here on Friday by bankruptcy referee Irwin Kurtz. Petition for arrangement was filed by ITT head George A. Hirliman on June 5.

Feature-Length Olympic Film Acquired by United Artists

Westport International's "King of the Olympics" has been acquired by United Artists for distribution in the U. S. The feature on the 1936 Olympic Games was edited from the work of 600 cameramen. It will be released next month.

Al Sherman Incorporates

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—In order to develop the "Sherman Plan for Controlled Distribution" of 16mm. films, a new company, The Sherman Plan, Inc., with headquarters here, has been formed. Al Sherman is president.

Newsreel Parade

THE start of "Brotherhood Week," and final rites for Gandhi are newsreel highlights in current reels. Sports and general interest stories round out. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 15—New Chinese army. Eamon de Valera out as Irish prime minister. Pennsylvania "quads." Alien baby deported. American "Brotherhood Week." Golden Gloves. Housewife fasts in fight against high cost of living.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 249—Chiang army moves against Reds. Post-war twin record. Baby "deported" to Denmark. America hails spirit of brotherhood. Dare-devils on ice. Golden Gloves.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 52—Basketball. Gandhi ashes scattered on sacred waters. "Brotherhood Week." King and queen of figure skating.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 119—U. S. marks "Brotherhood Week." Ice-choked Ohio River menaces shipping. "Quads" take bow. Golden Gloves finals. Hockey. Young deportee leaves for Denmark.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 54—Gandhi ashes in final resting place. Barbara Scott wins figure-skating championship. Fresh troops in North China. Golden Gloves. Ceylon wins independence. Margaret Rose becomes godmother.

Johnston Urges ERP Voice for Business

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—A "partnership capitalism" plan under which American banks and private businessmen would aid in the administration of the European Recovery Program was advocated here by Eric Johnston.

Under Johnston's proposal, made to the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Banking, a Peace Production Board would pass on worthy private investments abroad by American banks. The lending bank in America would assume five per cent of any loss, and the borrowing bank another five per cent. The 90 per cent remainder of the loan would be guaranteed by the Government as in the days of war production.

Brotherhood Lunch

(*Continued from page* 1)

cluding in their current releases a special "Brotherhood Week" clip.

Speakers at today's luncheon will include Dr. Daniel A. Poling, editor of the *Christian Herald,* and Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman, author of "Peace of Mind."

Transfilm's Short

Transfilm, Inc., is the producer of the short subject, "Make Way for Youth," which is being widely booked by theatres during the current "Brotherhood Week." Credit to the producer was omitted inadvertently in the review of the subject published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 19.

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TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
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NEW YORK THEATRES

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LILLI PALMER SAM WANAMAKER "My Girl Tisa"
IN PERSON VAUGHN MONROE AND HIS ORCHESTRA
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9:15 A.M. LATE FILM AT MIDNIGHT
LATE STAGE SHOW 10:30 P.M. B'WAY AT 47th

BENEDICT BOGEAUS presents
PAULETTE GODDARD HENRY FONDA
JAMES STEWART FRED MacMURRAY
IN
"A MIRACLE CAN HAPPEN"
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WARNER THEATRE
B'way 51st • Opens 10:30 AM
Late Midnight Film

BING CROSBY BOB HOPE DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD to RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
In Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA CATHY ALLEN DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
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Doors Open 9:45 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

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Business Is Up in 11 MPEA Markets

During the past six months there was no territory served by the Motion Picture Export Association, with the possible exception of Rumania, which did not show a marked increase in business volume on U. S. films sent by MPEA, it is disclosed.

MPEA countries are Holland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Poland, Bulgaria, Netherlands East Indies, Japan and Korea.

Atlas' Stock

(*Continued from page* 1)

common, listed at $51,250; 93,000 shares of Paramount common, $3,022,500; 929,020 of RKO common, $14,399,810; 327,812 of RKO warrants, $1,680,036, 10,000 of 20th-Fox, $380,000; 91,700 Walt Disney Prod., $412,650; 5,000 Warners, $88,125.

Atlas had net assets of $60,294,157 as of Dec. 31, 1947, the report said.

Citing the imposition of the British *ad valorem* tax in 1947, Odlum said: "This threat of loss of a substantial portion of the industry's foreign dollar revenues, coupled with the concurrent realization that cost of film production has reached a new high, caused a rather sharp decline" in the market value of film stocks.

The report states that RKO earnings declined during 1947 but earnings for the year were substantially in excess of dividend requirements at the rate in force at the end of the year. Economies have been instituted in all branches of that company's business which should approximately offset the loss of all foreign revenues, even if that should happen, the report states. Present indications, it continues, are that RKO will have substantially better earnings from operations in 1948 than it had in 1947.

Ogden Corp., majority-owned by Atlas, owns, according to the report, 750 shares of City Theatres' capital stock and 6,000 Paramount common, listed at $129,000.



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Reviews

"Sitting Pretty"

(*20th Century-Fox*)

HERE is an engaging attraction, loaded with laughs and a merry assortment of pleasantries. "Sitting Pretty" is of, by and for audiences anywhere and everywhere.

A novel by Gwen Davenport provided the base for a clever and freshly contrived screenplay by F. Hugh Herbert. The subject is baby sitters and how Robert Young and Maureen O'Hara, attractive parents of three delightfully rascally boys, expect "Lynn Belvedere" to be a woman only to discover he's Clifton Webb.

Belvedere is suave and charming. He is also competent and frequently obnoxious, but so adept in whatever he undertakes that the children fall for him and so, finally, do the parents. Obviously something more than a baby sitter, no one knows exactly who or what he is until a sensational best-seller based on the life and ways of the community in which he has been indulging his baby-sitting hits the newsstands. There is the devil to pay and threats of libel, but through it all Webb, as the author, remains assured, self-reliant and completely undisturbed.

Actually, he turns out to be good for the Young-O'Hara children and good for their parents. He proves understanding enough to meet all issues, large and small, and to point a way toward their solution including the family rift which develops out of gossip which never has any foundation in truth.

Webb is the central character by the very nature of the part. He dominates the picture and delivers what is easily the best performance and the best lines.

Walter Lang's direction is well-paced and constantly abreast of the story possibilities. Samuel C. Engel, who produced, has reason to be well satisfied with the results.

Running time, 84 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, April.

RED KANN

"Speed to Spare"

(*Paramount*)

A PRETTY swirl of activity is stirred up in "Speed to Spare," a formula action drama from the production team of William Pine and William Thomas. Richard Arlen is featured as a stunt driver who takes up a quieter profession as a driver with a trucking firm. Also in the cast are Jean Rogers, Richard Travers and Nanette Parks.

Events go nicely for Arlen in his new job, and he even considers marriage with pretty Miss Parks. However, a fellow employee with a grudge against Arlen, gets busy and starts sabotaging by deflating tires, disconnecting the hitch between truck and trailer, and in general, being a dangerous nuisance.

Working from a routine screenplay, provided by Milton Raison, director William Berke stressed action. The final climax has the trouble-maker tinkering with the thermostat on the truck making the vehicle too hot for a freight load of chemicals, causing it to blow up. The film ends on a slightly different note, as Arlen goes off to jail for his "negligence" which paved the way for the explosion.

Running time, 57 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, May 14.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Skouras, Schlaifer In Coast Conference

Studio conferences on plans for key 20th-Fox pictures have sent president Spyros Skouras and Charles Schlaifer, advertising-publicity director, to the Coast. Participating in the discussions will be Joseph M. Schenck, Darryl Zanuck and Harry Brand.

Pictures to be discussed are "The Iron Curtain," "The Walls of Jericho," "That Lady in Ermine," "Give My Regards to Broadway," "Street with No Name," "Fury at Furnace Creek," "Escape," "Green Grass of Wyoming," "Deep Waters" and "The Snake Pit."

Kill Censorship Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—A censorship bill introduced in the Massachusetts State Legislature has been killed in committee, according to Jack Bryson, legislative assistant to Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Plan State Dept. Film

Joseph Bernhard, Film Classics president, has arranged with U. S. Government officials to produce a picture based on the history of the State Department. Story will be done by Milton Raison.

Mayer-Rivoli

(*Continued from page* 1)

Charles T. Barney, the sellers. Assessed valuation is $1,450,000, of which $1,270,000 is on the land.

The United Artists Theatre Circuit holds a long-term master lease on the Rivoli but it is under the operation of Skouras Theatres. The 2,100-seat house fronts on Broadway and extends back to Seventh Avenue, between 49th and 50th Streets. Built in 1917, it was one of Broadway's first de luxe film houses. Among its operators were the late S. L. (Roxy) Rothafel and the late Hugo Riesenfeld. The theatre of late has been featuring 20th Century-Fox and Paramount first-run films.

Seeks Tax on U. S. Earnings by Aliens

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Sen. Lodge has introduced an amendment to the pending tax reduction bill requiring any non-resident alien who is present in this country or transacts business here for 90 days or more a year to pay income taxes on their capital gains. At present non-resident aliens are exempt. Many persons in the motion picture industry in this country may well be affected by the amendment, it is believed.

Vets, Industry Heads Open Meet on Films

Washington, Feb. 23. — Motion picture chiefs of the 13 regional branches of the Veterans Administration will meet in New York this week with representatives of the Motion Picture Association of America and other film distributors to map out a program for getting entertainment films to "vet" hospitals and homes during the next fiscal year.

Meeting, at the Barbizon Plaza, will run from today through Friday. During the current year, each hospital or home has been getting three features, a short and a newsreel each week.

Response Favorable To TOA-Ascap Pact

Reporting "overwhelmingly favorable response among member theatres to the outcome of recent (music rate) negotiations between Theatre Owners of America and Ascap," Robert W. Coyne, TOA executive director listed congratulatory messages from the following:

William R. Griffin, president of Alabama Theatres Association; R. B. Wilby, Wilby-Kincey Service Corp.; Ben L. Strozier, vice-president of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina; William Crockett, president of Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Association; Paul Williams, Southern California Theatre Owners, Russell Hardwick, New Mexico Theatre Association; Fred H. Kent, Florida Theatre Association; A. A. Adams, New Jersey TOA; W. F. Ruffin, MPTO of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee; G. D. Carpenter, Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina; Harold G. Fitzgerald, Fox Wisconsin Amusement Corp.

Two New Television Companies in Ohio

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 23.—Two new television corporations, one capitalized at $1,000,000 and the other at $317,000, have been formed here.

Dalton R. Kincaid, local attorney is listed as agent for the T-V Corp., and Picture Waves, Inc., is headed by Elmer E. Schatz, local businessman, and Louis W. Adams is attorney and vice-president.

Hit Unfavorable Publicity

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 23.—Exhibitors are urged by the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana to act against film stars who get unfavorable publicity in newspapers. "There is only one way to handle the situation, and that is for exhibitors to insist that terms on pictures which include in their casts" persons of questionable conduct be relegated to low brackets, ATOI declares.

RKO Promotes Pearlman

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Harold Pearlman, manager of the RKO Palace here, has been transferred to New Orleans, where he will function as advertising and publicity director for the circuit's houses there.

SKYROCKET BUSINESS FOR FIRST 10 OPENINGS*

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"One of those bright pieces of entertainment which comes along all too infrequently . . . provides nothing but amusement and laughs." —*M. P. Herald*

"Audiences looking for laughs will find them in abundance . . . entertainment that should result in popular and profitable boxoffice." —*Boxoffice*

"Should gaily make the big-money grade . . . loaded with everything the target demands." —*Film Daily*

"There can be no question of the picture's performance at the boxoffice . . . A fast-paced, volatile and highly amusing example of how to entertain the public." —*M. P. Daily*

"The family aura of this comedy should help . . . Should do okay at boxoffice." —*Variety*

"Howls interspersed with constant chuckles . . . Apparently headed for top-money brackets . . . good songs and strong exploitation possibilities." — *Showmen's Trade Review*

"Cantor-Davis team hits comedy stride . . . bright boxoffice prospects . . . one laugh sequence after the other." —*Hollywood Reporter*

"Chock full of the good old kind of comedy which audiences go for in droves . . . slick entertainment." —*Daily Variety*

RKO RADIO PICTURES



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Kansas City, Chicago, Minneapolis,
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Des Moines, Cedar Rapids

CRITICS' "BIG-MONEY" TIPOFF OKAY!



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EDDIE CANTOR ✳ JOAN DAVIS

in

"If You Knew Susie"

with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE
BOBBY DRISCOLL

Produced by EDDIE CANTOR
Directed by GORDON M. DOUGLAS
Original Screen Play by
Warren Wilson and Oscar Brodney





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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 6 NO. 37 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1948 TEN CENTS

SCTOA Code Would Control Theatre Video

Seeks Elimination of Experimental Confusion

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24.—Six-point code regulating theatre presentation of television programs was submitted by Southern California Theatre Owners Association's television committee chairman James H. Nicholson to representatives of broadcasters and ad agencies at a joint meeting held at the Variety Club, here, this afternoon.

Proposed code, based on several months of study, research, demonstrations and actual theatre television tests by SCTOA's committee, would bind some 500 theatres in the Los Angeles territory, and seeks to obviate confusion and the complications of several kinds, including legalistic, during a developmental period.

Suggested code provides: Theatres shall present each program intact, not

(*Continued on page 2*)

MOT to Produce Films for Video

Richard de Rochemont, March of Time producer, said yesterday that MOT will be producing films for television in the near future.

De Rochemont said the films will be made for sponsors of television programs, not for television stations directly. He emphasized that the subjects which MOT produces for theatre exhibition will not be released for telecasting. The subjects which will be made for television, he said, will be keyed specifically to the requirements of that entertainment medium.

Ascap Seeks End of Trust Charge by US

Ascap entered a general denial of all charges and asked for dismissal of the case yesterday in filing an answer in U. S. District Court here to the Government's action accusing the society of violating trust laws through alleged international affiliations.

In urging the dismissal, counsel for Ascap said that prior to 1914 American authors, composers and publish-

(*Continued on page 4*)

'Adverse' Report to Renew Strife, Walsh Warns Kearns' Unit

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Richard F. Walsh, president of IATSE, today told the House Labor subcommittee investigating the Hollywood jurisdictional strike that if the committee puts out any adverse reports it will "generate more trouble in Hollywood." He advised the Congressional unit to "leave it alone and harmony will reign supreme."

Opening witness before the committee headed by Congressman Carroll D. Kearns on its sixth successive day was L. P. Lindelof, president of the Painters' union. He suggested setting up a committee representative of all studio unions to define the disputed jurisdictions. Unless IATSE as well as all other studio unions were a party to it, this set-up would not work, he added.

Following Lindelof, Carpenters'

(*Continued on page 4*)

'Loop' Decree Breach Denied by Defendant

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—Major distributors and theatre circuits and Balaban and Katz today denied that they had acted in contempt of the Jackson Park decree at the opening of hearings on a motion by Jackson Park Theatre attorney Thomas McConnell for contempt citations. The hearing, which will continue tomorrow, is being held by Judge Michael Igoe in U. S. District Court.

Among pictures which figured in today's hearings were "Unconquered" and "Where There's Life," both Paramount; "Forever Amber" and "Nightmare Alley," both 20th Century-Fox, and "Lost Honeymoon," Eagle-Lion.

Twelve Millions from 'Lost' U.K. Market

London, Feb. 24.—Questioned in the House of Commons on the yearly rate dollars are remitted to American companies for film hire in November and December of 1947 and January, 1948, Chancellor of the Exchequer Cripps replied 12,000,000 pounds ($48,000,000), equivalent to $12,000,000 for the quarter.

Rubin Cited By NCCJ

A citation of distinguished merit from the National Conference of Christians and Jews was presented to J. Robert Rubin, Loew's vice-president and general counsel, at the annual "Brotherhood Week" luncheon of the amusement division at the Hotel Astor here yesterday. Principal speakers were Dr. Daniel A Poling, editor of the Christian Herald and Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman, author of "Peace of Mind."



J. Robert Rubin

In the absence of Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the NCCJ, Martin Quigley made the presentation to Rubin, who is national chairman of the amusement division. The citation, as it read in part, was for "his effec-

(*Continued on page 4*)

$570,200 Net for 1947 Is Reported by Republic

Republic's net for the year ended Oct. 25, 1947, was $570,200 after all charges, including taxes, Herbert J. Yates, president, discloses. After deducting annual dividend requirements on 400,000 shares of preferred stock, the net is equal to 9.3 cents per share on 1,817,860 shares of common stock, Yates reported.

Last year's net compares with a $1,097,940 net for the year ended Oct. 26, 1946, which was equivalent to 38 cents per share on the common.

The decrease, Yates said, "reflects

(*Continued on page 4*)

CTA Votes to Join TOA Membership

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—A resolution endorsing membership in the Theatre Owners of America has been passed by the board of directors of the California Theatres Association.

The organization represents almost 350 theatres in Northern California. Notification was sent to Ted Gamble, TOA president, who was further assured of virtually 100 per cent par-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Johnston to Fly To London Fri. On Ad Valorem

O'Hara to Go With Him; Douglas Reported in UK

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, will leave for London Friday in an attempt to get the negotiations on Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax off the "dead center" position where they are now bogged down.

The trip by Johnston, who will be accompanied by his executive assistant, Joyce O'Hara, means that negotiations to modify the tax will be carried on the top-level for the first time since last fall. MPAA officials here said Johnston would undoubtedly confer with Sir Stafford Cripps, Board of Trade president Harold Wilson and other key Labor Party officials.

Johnston may also extend his trip to France, it was revealed. His aim there would presum-

(*Continued on page 4*)

Senate Restores Construction Curb

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—In an unexpected move, the Senate today voted to restore to the pending long term rent control bill a provision giving the Administration power to curb theatre and other amusement construction through April 30, 1949.

The power, which had been dropped by the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, was put back in the bill on the Senate floor by a voice vote, with a scattering of Senators supporting the amendment and a handful voting against it. Not more than 25 Senators voted in all.

New Films, Holiday Boost N. Y. Grosses

New product and an extended Washington's Birthday holiday weekend proved to be a shot-in-the-arm combination for Broadway first-runs. Current business at many situations has an atmosphere of prosperity reminiscent of the war period. Long lines were in evidence at a number of box-offices on Saturday, Sunday

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

AL ZIMBALIST, Film Classics advertising-publicity director, is due back here Monday from Hollywood.

•

GEORGE J. SCHAEFER, vice-president in charge of distribution for Enterprise, and ROBERT TAPLINGER, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, have returned to New York from Miami.

•

LOUIS KANTUREK, Motion Picture Export Association supervisor of Eastern Europe and representative for Czechoslovakia, is due in New York Sunday on the *SS Westerdam.*

•

MILTON BLEMAN has left Paramount's budget and statistical department here after 18 years to operate "Beaver Lodge" in Lackawaxen, Pa.

•

WILLIAM K. SAXTON, city manager for Loew Theatres in Baltimore, will be married today to MARION DIXON.

•

DAVID D. HORNE, Monogram International officer, will leave here today by plane for an inspection trip in the Caribbean and South America.

•

JOHN JOSEPH, Universal-International national advertising-publicity director, has returned to the Coast from a visit here.

•

FRANK N. PHELPS, Warner Theatre department executive, left here last night for Albany, N. Y.

•

NAT W. FINSTON, Allied Artists producer, will leave Hollywood today for New York.

Columbia Managers Start 3-Day Meet

Columbia will open a three-day district managers' meeting today at the Hotel Warwick here, with A. Montague, general sales manager, presiding. Discussions will center around sales plans for both current and forthcoming pictures, all of which figure in the "Montague Sales and Liquidation Drive for 1947-48."

New Producer for Columbia Release

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—Philip N. Krasne has formed World-Adventure Pictures Co., Inc., with George Breakston as vice-president, and York Coplen as secretary.

Attorneys are working on final details of a deal under which Columbia will distribute an undetermined number of pictures to be produced by the newly-formed corporation also headed by A. Morgan Maree, Humphrey Bogart and Robert Lord, to film properties owned by the late Mark Hellinger.

Skouras Heads Drive For Overseas Relief

Spyros P. Skouras, general chairman here of American Overseas Aid—United Nations Appeal for Children, disclosed that the New York City drive will start on April 12 and extend through May 15. The city's quota has been set at $6,600,000 out of a national quota of $60,000,000.

20th Chicago Plan Altered for '777'

CHICAGO, Feb. 24. — Beginning March 19, 20th Century-Fox's "Call Northside 777" will be available for first-run in a theatre in each of 16 key zones in the Chicago area, J. H. Lorentz, Central division sales manager, announced here today. The plan, he said, is in keeping with the company's announced policy of having a flexible method of distributing its pictures in Chicago.

Pointing out that in connection with distribution of "Daisy Kenyon" and "Captain from Castile," Andrew W. Smith, Jr., 20th-Fox's general sales manager, had announced a flexible and variable plan of licensing those films in a number of key Chicago zones on a basis of competitive negotiation and had stated that modifications in the plan would be made on the basis of experience in operation. The company's experience in distributing those two films, Lorentz said, demonstrated the essential soundness of the plan as a fluid method of licensing its pictures.

Among changes announced is the creation of a new key zone on the Southside of Chicago, which will include the Jackson Park, Tower, Jeffrey, Shore, Ray, Hamilton, and Kimbark theatres. The Tivoli, Midway, Ark and Maryland theatres are being included in a zone with the Regal, Metropolitan and some other theatres. Additional sub-key zones are being created, and some changes made in the grouping of theatres in the zones.

Bessie Mack, 56, Theatre Veteran

Bessie Mack, 56, onetime publicity director of the Capitol Theatre here, died Sunday at Samaritan Hospital in Brooklyn. Miss Mack entered the show business in 1913 in the Shubert publicity department, later switching to the Capitol. She accompanied the late Major Edward Bowes into radio in 1935 and served with the organization until his death in 1946.

At the time of her death, Miss Mack was auditions director of the Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts radio show.

Robert P. Fairbanks, 67

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—Burial for Robert P. Fairbanks, 67, brother of the late Douglas, will be at Forest Lawn Cemetery tomorrow. Fairbanks died Sunday following a long illness. Surviving are the widow and two daughters.

News Briefs

Pre-Hearing Conference On Para.-DuMont Video

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—A pre-hearing conference will be held tomorrow by Federal Communications Commission and company attorneys in the Paramount-DuMont television case.

Issue is whether or not Paramount controls DuMont and certain other subsidiaries and whether it has more than the five television stations which the FCC has set as the maximum for any one company.

The regular hearing before the Commission is still set here for Mar. 1.

SMPE's Semi-Annual Meeting At Santa Monica, May 17-21

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24. — Society of Motion Picture Engineers will hold its 63rd semi-annual convention May 17-21, inclusive, with the Pacific Coast section playing host to 2,500 technicians and others from the motion picture industry, manufacturers, scientific foundations and experimental laboratories who are expected to assemble here from the United States and a dozen other nations, it was announced here yesterday by Loren L. Ryder, president of the SMPE. Actual scene of the convention will be the Santa Monica Ambassador Hotel, in Santa Monica.

Eagle-Lion Sets March, April As "J. Arthur Rank Months"

Eagle-Lion has designated March and April as "J. Arthur Rank Months" as part of the company's "Show-Up Sales Drive," William J. Heineman, vice-president in charge of distribution announced here yesterday. Designation of the period as a tribute to the British producer-exhibitor coincides with Rank's impending arrival here in March.

Attorney General Tom Clark Will Attend TOA Board Meet

U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark has accepted the invitation of Ted R. Gamble, president of the Theatre Owners of America, to speak at the TOA directors' meeting at the Hotel Ambassador, Los Angeles, on March 9, the TOA reported here yesterday.

Blast Demolishes Theatre

MEMPHIS, Feb. 24.—Diane Theatre at Pocahontas, Ark., was demolished, along with three other buildings in an explosion there today. One man is missing and believed dead. Three men went into the building to investigate a report of escaping butane gas. One struck a match in the dimly-lighted building and the explosion followed.

Jacob Blumberg Left $100,000

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24. — Jacob Blumberg, theatre owner who died here on Feb. 10, left the bulk of his $100,000 estate to his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Blumberg, it was disclosed by his will probated yesterday. Other relatives and charities will share the remainder.

Newsreel Parade

A SPEECH by President Truman, and the opening of 1948 political campaigns, are highlights of current newsreels. Other items include food for China, a carnival in Rio, floods in Spain and films of Tokyo Rose. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 16.—President Truman decries reactionaries. [illegible] flour for China. Featherweight helicopter. Carnival time in Rio. Films of Tokyo Rose. Birthday party for dogs. Navy wrestling. Ski jumping.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 250.—Democrats open presidential battle for 1948. Starving China. Quintuplets for the "Leo's" kangaroos of the San Francisco zoo. Baseball is in the air. One-man helicopter. Carnival in Rio.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 53 — Joe Louis: gloves across the seas. Haile Selassie attends Epiphany rites. Lord Mountbatten calls on the Maharajah. Fashions: spring and summer. Political fireworks begin.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 120.—Campaigns for 1948 begin. U. S. food arrives in China. Spring rains flood Seville and other Spanish towns. Carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Hill-climbing machine demonstrated in Seattle. Billiard champ.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 55.—Planes for Turks. Lord Mountbatten honored by Maharajah. Democrats at Jackson Day dinner. Feeding China. Tokyo Rose. Canaries in melodrama. London art show.

5-Day MGM Coast Meet Starts March 1

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24.—William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager for M-G-M has called a five-day conference of field sales managers, territorial assistants and home office executives, to start here on Monday, March 1. Primary purpose of the conference is to screen a number of productions scheduled for release during the next six months. Rodgers, now in Chicago, plans to leave there Wednesday and arrive here Friday for advance studio discussions.

Among those who will attend are Edward M. Saunders, Edwin W. Aaron, H. M. Richey, John P. Byrne, Herman Ripps, John J. Maloney, Frank C. Hensler, Burtus Bishop, Jr., Ralph W. Maw, Rudy Berger, John S. Allen, George A. Hickey, Samuel J. Gardner.

SCTOA Video Code

(*Continued from page* 1)

eliminating commercials; they shall not increase admissions over normal schedules at any time; they shall not present a televised event as a sole program offering, but shall augment the film or stage presentation; they shall announce that a "television presentation is offered as an added service to patrons. Television is a free public service and is presented here as such."

All advertising in newspapers, billboards, etc., which refers to specific programs, will include call letters of the station and the name of a sponsor.

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Extra!
Sensational at Baltimore, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, New Orleans, Toledo!
TERRIFIC AT CAPITOL, N.Y.
Second Best in 12 months. Topped only by "Hucksters."
M-G-M's TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL
THREE DARING DAUGHTERS
starring
JEANETTE MacDONALD · JOSE ITURBI
JANE POWELL
with
EDWARD ARNOLD · HARRY DAVENPORT
Color by TECHNICOLOR
Original Screen Play by Albert Mannheimer, Frederick Kohner, Sonya Levien, John Meehan
Directed by FRED M. WILCOX · Produced by JOE PASTERNAK
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE
M-G-M presents
WALLACE BEERY
in
"ALIAS A GENTLEMAN"
TOM DRAKE · DOROTHY PATRICK
GLADYS GEORGE · LEON AMES
Screen Play by William R. Lipman
Directed by HARRY BEAUMONT · Produced by NAT PERRIN
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE
A SOCK WALLY BEERY RAMA!
M-G-M presents
VAN JOHNSON
JUNE ALLYSON
in
"THE BRIDE GOES WILD"
BUTCH JENKINS · HUME CRONYN
UNA MERKEL
Original Screen Play by Albert Beich
Directed by NORMAN TAUROG · Produced by WILLIAM H. WRIGHT
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE
FIRST BIG COMEDY SENSATION OF 1948!
MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION!
Give Generously For American Brotherhood Week

N. Y. Grosses Soar

(*Continued from page* 1)

and Monday, and adjectives such as "sensational" and "terrific" were employed by many managers to describe business.

Thursday through Monday brought $111,500 to Radio City Music Hall, where the first week of "A Double Life," plus Russell Markert's stage presentation, is expected to wind up with a big $145,000. At the Roxy, where Washington's Birthday business was described as 25 per cent over that of any previous year, "Call Northside 777," and a stage show topped by Hazel Scott, is heading for a very big $130,000 in a first week. Also playing to top business is "Road to Rio," with Louis Prima's band on stage, at the Paramount, where $120,000 was grossed for a first week ending yesterday. "The Pearl," at the Sutton, is proving to be a record smasher, the first week bringing in a sensational $13,800, after a slow start.

'Body and Soul' Rebounds

Heavy business is being enjoyed also by "Three Daring Daughters," plus Horace Heidt's band on stage, at the Capitol, and "Body and Soul" at the Globe; second week of the former is on its way to a robust $80,000, and the 16th week of "Body" is expected to bring a rebounding $23,000. At the Palace, "If You Knew Susie" is having a rousing first week with $38,000 expected.

"Gentleman's Agreement" is still going strong at the Mayfair, where a 15th week brought in $40,388. Also performing solidly are "The Bishop's Wife," which is due to bring the Astor $36,500 for an 11th week, and "My Girl Tisa," with Vaughn Monroe's band on stage, at the Strand, where $65,000 for a first week is expected. In a second week, "To the Ends of the Earth," at the Rivoli, and "Killer McCoy," at Loew's State, are holding up well; the former is on its way to $40,000, and "Killer" looks good for $35,000.

Winter Garden, Rialto 'Good'

At other situations business is expected to shape up about as follows: "Sleep My Love," Criterion, first week, $30,000 (satisfactory); "Jassy," Winter Garden, first week, $21,000 (good); "Holiday Camp," Park, fifth week, $7,500 (good); "Furia," Rialto, fifth week, $13,000 (very good); "The Flame," Gotham, first and only week, $6,500 (moderate); "The Burning Cross," Victoria, first week, $15,000 (satisfactory); "A Miracle Can Happen," Warner, third week, $16,000 (so-so).

Oregon Business Off 30%

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 24.—Heavy rains, an increase in influenza cases and increased unemployment are described here as being responsible for a 30 per cent reduction in grosses in Oregon theatres this month.



Rank Moving In on Ad Valorem Levy

London, Feb. 24.—J. Arthur Rank will convene a secret meeting of leading British exhibitors in his headquarters here tomorrow for the purpose of deciding on joint action against the British *ad valorem* tax on foreign film imports, principally Hollywood product.

Johnston to London

(*Continued from page* 1)

ably be to see what can be done to step up film remittances and to explore the situation behind the French request to revive the Blum-Byrnes accord.

The MPAA executives will leave from LaGuardia Airport, New York, Friday afternoon and will be gone from one to two weeks.

Meanwhile, Lewis O. Douglas, U. S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James, is understood to have arrived in London where, as reported last week by MOTION PICTURE DAILY, he is scheduled to open talks with British government officials immediately on the film levy. He may therefore have some proposals for Johnston's consideration when the MPAA head arrives.

To Revoke Eire Levy

DUBLIN, Feb. 24.—In line with its program, Prime Minister John A. Costello's new government today announced that it will revoke tax increases placed last fall on films and other commodities.

Republic Net

(*Continued from page* 1)

conditions in which pictures produced at relatively high costs during a period of expanding markets and increasing domestic and foreign receipts, which the management expected to continue, are subsequently distributed, during a period of contracting markets and diminishing box office receipts."

During the 12 months ended in August, 1947, Republic's income from Great Britain was seven per cent less than for the corresponding period of the preceding year, Yates said.

The report points out that even before the British *ad valorem* tax, the company commenced a program of economy in anticipation of possible decline in receipts, adding that the program has become accelerated and extended, particularly in terms of production costs.

During the last fiscal year the company made payments of $822,935 in Federal taxes, $773,115 in retroactive wages under union contracts, and $250,000 on principal on bank loans, said the report.

CTA to Join

(*Continued from page* 1)

ticipation of theatres in this sector of California in the TOA.

Roy Cooper of San Francisco was elected to represent the CTA on the TOA board of directors, and will attend the latter's meeting in Los Angeles on March 9-10.

US-Canada Talks on Dollar Situation

OTTAWA, Feb. 24.—Trade Minister Howe has informed the Dominion's Parliament that the dollar situation facing the U. S. film industry in Canada "calls for a more imaginative and constructive approach" than the application of quotas on film imports. At the same time he revealed that, due to co-operation, official discussions with U. S. industry heads are proceeding satisfactorily.

Reporting that last year Canadian rentals for U. S. films amounted to $12,000, Howe said that the industry will help solve the exchange problem not by Canadian business contraction but by production development here.

Kearns' Hearing

(*Continued from page* 1)

union president William Hutcheson was called briefly to the stand and was asked if he would cooperate with this plan. Hutcheson replied that he would try to do "anything within his power" to help the people whom he represents.

Lindelof, in today's testimony, called the September, 1946, dispute a "lockout" of the painters, and asserted that the painters abided by the August, 1946, clarification. The painters struck in 1945, he said, because labor conditions "had become so bad."

Walsh told the committee that the three-man AFL arbitration committee had merely put into effect the old union contracts in its 1945 directive. He had tried originally to convince the committee that all the work in the studios belonged to IATSE.

Denying any collusion between his union and the producers, Walsh declared that his union "kicked itself back into the studios," and that the studios "didn't want us back." The employers "don't love IATSE any more than they love the CSU (Conference of Studio Unions) or anyone else," he asserted.

Much of the testimony by Hutcheson on Monday consisted of a review of the intricacies of the jurisdictional strife, with the witness reading to the committee correspondence with AFL leaders, resolutions and minutes of AFL meetings, and contracts—all proving to his own satisfaction one point: that the Carpenters' union could not possibly go along with the 1945 directive from the three-man AFL committee.

Joseph Cambiano, who presented the carpenters' case before the three-man arbitration board during its West Coast hearings, was "only assisting the committee," according to Hutcheson.

ARMIT Hits Ascap, Sets Meeting Date

DENVER, Feb. 24.—Directors of Allied Rocky Mountain Independent Theatres hit Ascap and voted support of the Lewis Bill at a meeting here today. The bill would take away power of Ascap to tax theatre seats.

The directors voted support of the stand of undecision of national Allied on the Motion Picture Foundation. They also voted for an extensive membership drive and set May 18-19 as the dates for the annual convention.

Ascap Trust Charges

(*Continued from page* 1)

ers received no payments for public performances of their works in this country and abroad, while those in foreign countries had no way of collecting for performances of their music in the United States. Also, it was pointed out that before 1914 it was impossible to prosecute users of the Ascap and International Confederation of Authors and Composers Society catalogues.

The brief asserted that as a result of the fact that there was no way authors, composers and publishers could collect for the use of their compositions in other countries they formed cooperative associations consisting of a number of their craft.

Rubin Cited

(*Continued from page* 1)

tive and constructive leadership of the amusement division of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in interpretation and support of its program." Also cited was "his profound faith in the power of education to keep the American Way free of prejudice."

David Weinstock, campaign chairman, cited the five newsreels through which "90,000,000 will receive the message of brotherhood," and also Robert Mochrie, Harry Brandt and Si Seadler for their efforts in distribution, exhibition and publicity, respectively.

In his speech Rabbi Liebman referred to "the tremendous power of the motion picture industry" with which "it could make people understand that bigotry is a crippling disease."

Rubin was chairman of the meeting. Others on the dais were: Robert Christenberry, Max A. Cohen, Jack Cohn, Robert W. Coyne, Emil Friedlander, William J. German, William J. Heineman, Edward Lachman, Arthur Mayer, Miss Lucy Monroe, Charles C. Moskowitz, John J. O'Connor, Walter Reade, Jr., Samuel Rosen, James E. Sauter, and Joseph R. Vogel.

Grosses Go Higher With Devonshire

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VOL. 63. NO. 38 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1948 TEN CENTS

Labor Probe Swings Into 'Red' Charges

'IA' Allegations Alter House Inquiry Approach

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—In a surprise move late this afternoon, the House Labor committee's one-man investigation of the Hollywood jurisdictional strike blossomed out into a full five-man sub-committee, which will go into the alleged Communist aspect of the studio labor situation and may continue hearings for several more days.

Rep. Carroll D. Kearns, who has been carrying on the investigation since last summer, has been ruling out any testimony concerning alleged Communist activity, on the ground that Chairman Hartley of the full Labor committee had charged him only to investigate the labor aspect.

But today, after IATSE counsel Matthew Levy charged, for the third time in the current hearings, that one of the key elements in the dispute is "the subversive drive to bring all Hollywood labor under the influence of the Communist Party and those who follow the Communist line, which drive centers around the Conference of Studio Unions and Herbert K. Sor-

(*Continued on page* 5)

TOA Asks Hearing On Tax Cut Need

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Theatre Owners of America, through Washington representative A. Julian Brylawski, has asked the Senate Finance Committee for a chance to testify on the need for an admission tax cut.

The Senate group will open hearings on Monday on the income tax reduction bill. It has been deluged with requests to be heard from groups seeking reductions in various excises but is sticking to a policy of hearing only income tax proposals.

Hopes Allied Will Change MPF Stand

First expression of opinion to come from the Motion Picture Foundation on the national Allied board's disapproval of the organization's participation in the MPF was made here yesterday by Leonard Goldenson, co-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Plan Local Allied Decree 'Vigilantes'

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 25.—First of an expected nationwide set-up of Allied Theatre Owners "Vigilante" committees dedicated to detecting any violations of any final decree that may be handed down by the U. S. Supreme Court in the industry anti-trust suit was set up here yesterday by Allied of Kansas-Missouri.

The committee, formed at a Kansas-Missouri Allied board meeting, will serve as a connecting link between local and national organizations in the detection of violations.

(That a nationwide web will evolve appears a certainty on the basis of information received from national Allied headquarters in Washington. However, at the national organization's board meeting last week at the Capital, it was decided to hold up a national plan until the decree is handed down.—*Editor's Note*).

At yesterday's meeting here O. F. Sullivan, president of the Kansas-Missouri unit, presented a report on the national board meeting and the unit took steps to implement regionally actions of the national board. A committee was appointed to follow through on support for the Lewis

(*Continued on page* 4)

Para. Insisted on Clearance: Salkin

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Richard Salkin, manager of the Jackson Park Theatre, was the witness in the second day's hearing of the Jackson Park decree contempt citation against five distributors in U. S. District Court here today. He was asked by Paramount attorney Ed Johnston to recount particulars involving clearance and film rental of his individual negotiations for product since the decree went into effect on Nov. 19, and stated

(*Continued on page* 4)

New Million-Dollar Trust Suit Filed

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Second million-dollar motion picture anti-trust suit within a week was filed in U. S. District Court here today by Charles and Herman Nelson, former operators of the Lawndale Theatre, who charge 10 distributors with violations of the Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts.

The bill charges that from Oct. 23, 1939 to May 8, 1947 when the Nelsons operated the house, the defendants discriminated against the theatre in preferred film bookings. The Lawndale was in the 10th week of release. Frank Rief, Sr., and Frank Rief, Jr., present owners, are not involved in the suit.

BRITISH FILM TAX PEACE IN SIGHT

Formula, Linked to ERP, May Await Johnston On Arrival in London

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Inner governmental circles here believe that an acceptable formula for settlement of the 75 per cent *ad. valorem* film tax is now in view and may be in readiness to transmit to Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, on his arrival here at the weekend.

It is known that Ambassador Lewis O. Douglas already has had several detailed discussions with key ministers of the government here concerning the operational framework of the European Recovery Program in anticipation of its approval by Congress. The possible inclusion of motion pictures in the operational framework was explored during the discussions.

Authoritative sources reveal that the Douglas talks followed precisely along the previously reported lines of classifying motion pictures as incentive goods under the Marshall Plan.

The Foreign Office is aware that the MPAA has conferred with State

(*Continued on page* 5)

New MPAA Building Making 'Progress'

Washington, Feb. 25.—The District Fine Arts Commission has been asked to pass on the Motion Picture Association's plans for a new headquarters building here. The zoning board went over the plans at a hearing here last week, then "passed the buck" to the Fine Arts group.

Action on the plans, which has been bogged down for some time, is expected to accelerate from here on in. If approved, the MPAA would probably begin work "in the reasonably near future" on the first section of the new building, including a projection room. Eventually the building will occupy the entire 16th and I Street corner now owned by the association.

Kane, Wirthwein in New Para. Sales Posts

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount distribution vice-president, has promoted Albert M. Kane of Boston and Harold Wirthwein of Los Angeles.

Kane, district manager of Boston, New Haven, Albany and Buffalo, has been promoted to assistant division manager of the Eastern division, becoming assistant to Hugh Owen, Eastern-Southern division manager; Wirthwein, assistant district manager of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seat-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Lewis Bill Hearing Is Delayed 3 Weeks

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Hearings on the Lewis bill to force Ascap to bargain with motion picture producers and relieve theatre owners of any direct Ascap licensing tax have been delayed to March 22 from March 1.

Representative Lewis, chairman of the House judiciary sub-committee which will conduct the hearings, said that the delay was granted at the request of both proponents and opponents of the bill who require more time to prepare their cases and line up witnesses.

Lewis said Allied counsel Abram F.

(*Continued on page* 4)

U-Rank Talks Near End; Resume Here

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Discussions of new contractual relations between Universal-International and J. Arthur Rank have made progress here during the past week, but will be suspended in an inconclusive state tomorrow, it is learned.

Rank is scheduled to leave for New York on the *Queen Elizabeth*, March 5, and U-I top executives probably

(*Continued on page* 5)

MPAA Acting On Canada Film Quota

U. S. industry efforts to dissuade the Canadian government from applying a quota on films to ease the dollar situation are being spearheaded by Francis Harmon, vice-president of the Motion Picture Association of Ameri-

(*Continued on page* 5)

Personal Mention

SID DENEAU, Selznick Releasing Organization assistant general sales manager, has left New York for Toronto.

•

EDWARD M. SAUNDERS, EDWIN W. AARON, FRANK C. HENSLER, JOHN J. MALONEY, JOHN P. BYRNE and HERMAN RIPPS, all M-G-M sales executives, will leave here today for the Coast.

•

LYNN FARNOL, Eastern advertising-publicity director for Samuel Goldwyn Prod., has returned to New York from a tour of the South and Southwest.

•

MARVIN H. SCHENCK, Loew vice-president and Eastern M-G-M representative, will leave New York tomorrow with his wife for a vacation at Hot Springs, Ark.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will leave here tomorrow for a vacation at Big Boulder Ranch, Castle Hot Springs, Ark., and then will visit the M-G-M studio.

•

JOHN MURPHY, general manager of Loew's out-of-town theatres, and DAN S. TERRELL, of the publicity department, are on a Southern trip from New York.

•

GEORGE HIRLIMAN, president of Film-Tel and International Theatrical and Television Corp., left here yesterday for the Coast.

•

JOSEPH MCMAHON, Republic secretary, and MRS. MCMAHON have become parents of a daughter, their fourth child.

•

HENRY L. NATHANSON, president of M-G-M Films of Canada, will leave Hollywood March 1 for his Toronto headquarters.

•

L. J. SCHLAIFER, Eagle-Lion distribution aide, has left New York for Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

•

PAUL HOLLISTER, RKO Radio Eastern studio representative, and TERRY TURNER, exploitation head, will leave Hollywood today for New York.

•

VOLDEMAR VETLUGUIN, M-G-M studio editorial chief, will leave New York tomorrow for Hollywood.

•

NORMAN TAUROG, M-G-M director, and MRS. TAUROG are in town from the Coast.

Zion Myers, 50

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25. — Funeral services for Zion Myers, 50, director-writer who died here yesterday, will be held tomorrow at Forest Lawn. Among the films which he directed were "Roberta," "The Gay Divorcee," and "Here Come the Waves." Surviving are the widow, a son, a daughter and a sister.

News Briefs . . .

Sturdivant Sues National for $500,000 on Mexican Deal

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—B. V. Sturdivant has filed a Superior Court action against National Theatres, asking for $500,000 allegedly due him from the sale of National's Mexican theatre holdings one year ago. Sturdivant claims that the arrangement with Charles Skouras, circuit president, provided for the plaintiff to receive all monies obtained from the sale in excess of the investment made originally.

"Sitting Pretty" Charity Showing Nets Variety Heart Fund $10,000

MIAMI, Feb. 25.—The charity world premiere of 20th Century-Fox's "Sitting Pretty" at the Lincoln Theatre here last night grossed over $10,000 for the local Variety Club Heart Fund with a capacity house of prominent personages paying $10 to $500 for seats.

The film was selected by Mitchell Wolfson and Sidney Meyer of the Wometco Circuit to highlight the benefit premiere. It began its regular first-run at both the Lincoln and Miami Theatres today.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25. — Motion Picture Association of America president Eric Johnston was top speaker at the Brotherhood Week luncheon of the local Variety Club at the Statler Hotel here today. Loew's Washington representative, Carter Barron, was toastmaster. Drew Pearson also spoke.

Allen Confirmed by Senate as Assistant Secretary of State

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The Senate today confirmed the nomination of George V. Allen as Assistant Secretary of State for foreign affairs, to succeed William Benton. Much of the work on the department's overseas information program, including solution of the frozen funds problems of the film industry and other information media, has been delayed awaiting confirmation of the new head of the program.

Extensive Television Network Additions Planned by A.T.&T.

Plans to provide additional intercity television network facilities this year extending from the East Coast as far West as the Mississippi River, have been announced here by Bartlett T. Miller, vice-president of American Telephone and Telegraph.

Included in the plans are 2,000 miles of television network channels from Buffalo to St. Louis, and other extensions.

Cinema Lodge Honors Two

New York's Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith will pay tribute to Congressman Jacob K. Javits and pianist Hazel Scott as American champions of the oppressed, at the Hotel Astor here, on March 2, Robert M. Weitman, president of the Lodge announces.

NSS Concludes Two-Day Chicago Sales Meeting

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—National Screen Service today concluded a two-day sales meeting at the Blackstone Hotel. Among those attending were Herman Robbins, president; George Dembow and William Brenner, vice-presidents; Lewis Pabst, Kansas City district manager; William Vine, and all Midwest sales managers.

Truncale Is Disqualified in Suit Against Head of Universal

Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind yesterday disqualified Universal minority stockholder Stephen Truncale from bringing suit in U. S. District Court here against five "U" directors whom he had charged with questionable stock option deals. Truncale was ruled out when Judge Rifkind granted a motion by the defendants on the grounds that the plaintiff was not a stockholder in the company at the time the deals in question were consummated.

The court permitted an intervenor, William Friday, to take over as plaintiff in the suit for an accounting of profits allegedly made by the directors.

Harold Smith Off for PCA Post; Frank McCarthy Back to Paris

Harold Smith, who served as liaison for the Motion Picture Export Association with the Army in Germany, has left New York for the Coast to assume new duties as adviser to the Production Code Administration on the contents of U. S. films intent for showing abroad.

Frank McCarthy, Continental representative for the Motion Picture Association of America, flies back to Paris headquarters from New York today.

Distributors and Veterans Start Talks on 'Vet' Films

Discussions on ways of improving and extending the program of film entertainment for disabled veterans during the next fiscal year were furthered here yesterday at conferences held at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel between film chiefs of the 13 regional branches of the Veterans Administration and representatives of the Motion Picture Association of America, and other film distributors. The conferences began on Monday and will terminate tomorrow.

Wilkie Working on Variety Convention Press Campaign

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 25.—Al Wilkie, formerly home office publicity manager for Paramount, is assisting Tom Jefferson on the publicity campaign for the Variety Clubs International convention here April 12-17.

To Produce 3 Yearly for E-L

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—William Moss Pictures, Inc., has been formed here to produce three films annually for Eagle-Lion release. First on the schedule is "Judgment in the Wilderness," in Cinecolor.

'Magic Shadows,' By Martin Quigley, Jr., Is Published Today

"Magic Shadows, the Story of the Origin of Motion Pictures," by Martin Quigley, Jr., Associate Editor of *Motion Picture Herald* and MOTION PICTURE DAILY, is being published today by Georgetown University Press

Ending where other histories of motion picture begin, *i.e.*, with Thomas Edison and his 19th Century contemporaries, "Magic Shadows" goes back through the centuries, tracing through original source the studies and experimentations which made the motion picture possible. The trail leads to Archimedes and Aristotle and, before them, to the ancient Babylonians, Egyptians and Chinese.

The 13th Century contributions of Roger Bacon, English monk; of Leonardo Da Vinci, two centuries later, and of Giovanni Battista della Porta, are reported. With the aid of that background, Johannes Kepler developed the scientific principles of the camera obscura in the early 17th Century and, soon after, Athanasius Kircher produced a magic lantern which projected pictures. Numerous others in succeeding years added to and popularized the magic lantern. The quest for real motion pictures continued in earnest.

Joseph Plateau, a Belgian, in 1829 achieved devices for projecting images in motion. He, "more than anyone else," the author says, "deserves the title, 'Father of the Motion Picture'."

Employing the Kircher and Plateau-Stampfer contributions, Franz Uchatius, an Austrian, invented a projector about 1850. From that point on, the history of motion pictures moves rapidly to Edison and his contemporaries, and the World Premiere of Edison's Kinetoscope in New York, April, 1894. Within a few years the motion picture became a popular medium and a rapidly growing commercial success.

"Magic Shadows" contains 28 illustrations, a chronology, bibliography and index. There is a foreword by Terry Ramsaye, editor of *Motion Picture Herald* and author of "A Million and One Nights—A History of the Motion Picture."

New Production Unit Schedules Three

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—Major Productions, Inc., has been formed here by John S. Yuhasz and J. L. and Ira Nickerson. The first of three pictures planned is "Mr. Fate," by Yuhasz, scheduled for shooting in May and said to be budgeted at $500,000.

Fire Hits G.S. Studio

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—Several small fires broke out on sound stages and several dressing rooms at General Service Studio were damaged today in a million-dollar fire which swept through much of a business block near Santa Monica Boulevard and Las Palmas Avenue. Authorities described the blaze as the worst here in nearly two decades.

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ROBERT ALDA · S. Z. SAKALL · Directed by JAMES V. KERN · Produced by WILLIAM JACOBS

Screen Play by Peter Milne • Suggested by a Story by Joe Laurie, Jr. • Musical Numbers Created and Staged by LeRoy Prinz
Music Arranged and Adapted by Ray Heindorf • A WARNER BROS. First National Picture

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1948

CITY	PLACE OF SHOWING	ADDRESS	TIME
Albany	Warner Screening Room	79 N. Pearl St.	8:00 P.M.
Atlanta	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	197 Walton St. N.W.	2:30 P.M.
Boston	RKO Screening Room	122 Arlington St.	2:30 P.M.
Buffalo	Paramount Sc. Room	464 Franklin Street	2:00 P.M.
Charlotte	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	308 S. Church St.	10:00 A.M.
Chicago	Warner Screening Room	1307 So. Wabash Ave.	1:30 P.M.
Cincinnati	RKO Screening Room	Palace Th. Bldg. E. 6th	8:00 P.M.
Cleveland	Warner Screening Room	2300 Payne Ave.	2:00 P.M.
Dallas	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	1803 Wood St.	10:00 A.M.
Denver	Paramount Sc. Room	2100 Stout St.	2:00 P.M.
Des Moines	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	1300 High St.	12:45 P.M.
Detroit	Film Exchange Bldg.	2310 Cass Ave.	2:00 P.M.
Indianapolis	Universal Sc. Room	517 No. Illinois St.	1:00 P.M.
Kansas City	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	1720 Wyandotte St.	1:30 P.M.
Los Angeles	Warner Screening Room	2025 S. Vermont Ave.	2:00 P.M.
Memphis	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	151 Vance Ave.	10:00 A.M.
Milwaukee	Warner Th. Sc. Rm.	212 W. Wisconsin Ave.	2:00 P.M.
Minneapolis	Warner Screening Room	1000 Currie Ave.	2:00 P.M.
New Haven	Warner Th. Proj. Rm.	70 College St.	2:00 P.M.
New Orleans	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	200 S. Liberty St.	1:30 P.M.
New York	Home Office	321 W. 44th St.	2:30 P.M.
Oklahoma	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	10 North Lee St.	1:30 P.M.
Omaha	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	1502 Davenport St.	1:00 P.M.
Philadelphia	Warner Screening Room	230 No. 13th St.	2:30 P.M.
Pittsburgh	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	1715 Blvd. of Allies	1:30 P.M.
Portland	Jewel Box Sc. Room	1947 N.W. Kearney St.	2:00 P.M.
Salt Lake	20th Century-Fox Sc. Rm.	216 East 1st South	2:00 P.M.
San Francisco	Republic Sc. Room	221 Golden Gate Ave.	1:30 P.M.
Seattle	Jewel Box Sc. Room	2318 Second Ave.	10:30 A.M.
St. Louis	S'renco Sc. Room	3143 Olive St.	1:00 P.M.
Washington	Earle Th. Bldg.	13th & E Sts. N.W.	10:30 A.M.

20th-Fox Promotes Six in Foreign Dept.

Six promotions have been made in the 20th Century-Fox foreign department, as follows:

Gustave Joffe, formerly manager of Venezuela, has been named manager in the Philippines; Albert Leonard, who was attached to the home office, has been appointed manager of Venezuela; Carlos Herrera, formerly manager of Ecuador, was named sales manager of Mexico under manager Allen Noye; John Finder, formerly manager of the Dominican Republic, becomes manager of Ecuador, while Orlando Calvo has been promoted from his post as booker in Panama to manager of the Dominican Republic.

Dan Lederman, who was manager of the Philippines prior to Joffe's appointment, will return to the home office for a new assignment.

Mintz UA Manager In Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 25.—Leonard Mintz has been promoted to manager of United Artists' branch office here by Mark N. Silver, district manager. Mintz, formerly a salesman in Philadelphia, replaces David Leff, who has resigned.

Silver also announced that Joe Young of the Philadelphia sales force has been transferred to Washington, and Clayton Bond, Jr., of Washington has been moved to Philadelphia.

Heineman Names Towler Manager

William J. Heineman, Eagle-Lion distribution vice-president, has promoted Nelson Towler, former sales manager in the Atlanta exchange, to be Atlanta branch manager.

F.P.-Canadian Dividend

OTTAWA, Feb. 25.—Famous Players Canadian Corp., Ltd., has declared a 25 cents dividend payable March 27 to shareholders on record on March 12.

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Reviews

"The Bride Goes Wild"

(M-G-M)

THROUGH an astute combination of robust humor and romance this Van Johnson-June Allyson starrer bids for the favor of both men and women patrons with equal success. It starts slowly, but keeps stepping up its pace until it works into a frenzy at the finish, generating enough entertainment to make one charitable about the tendency of author and director to protract an undue number of sequences in the hope of extracting an extra laugh or two. In an attempt to widen its audience the production is not above resorting to unabashed slapstick when it is felt the occasion warrants.

With considerable bounce Johnson essays the role of a famous writer of kiddies' books, an earthling who must sustain the pretense of being a model fellow for professional reasons. Miss Allyson is an artist from the sticks who has won a contest to illustrate his latest book. They fall in love after a lot of back-biting while a rich charmer (Arlene Dahl) tries to chisel in. Johnson almost loses Miss Allyson to a rival as the result of a misunderstanding, but a last-minute dash packed with excitement saves the day for both.

Butch Jenkins, an orphan, is brought into the lovers' lives to add human interest and a touch of pathos. Hume Cronyn, Una Merkel and Lloyd Corrigan give valiant support, under the direction of Norman Taurog. Albert Beich's screenplay was produced acceptably by William H. Wright.

Running time, 98 minutes. General audience classification. Set for March release.

P. E. L.

"The Challenge"

(Reliance-20th-Fox)

IN this Ben Pivar-Bernard Small production Bulldog Drummond is unleashed again in the interests of the melodramatic. "Sapper's" sleuth serves the cause of justice nobly and with his customary suavity and aplomb, if not with an inordinate amount of excitement. Although the suspense is not killing, it does provide enough inducement for the undivided attention of those addicted to melodrama, and there are scattered moments when the action attains a high degree of tension.

Pivar and Small produced the film with a gloss which manages to impart some class. There is evident a physical attractiveness that the fragility and commonplaceness of the story may not deserve, although the appeal to the eye does a lot to sell the film.

The contention is over a ship model. The miniature passes from hand to hand as Drummond seeks to discover what secret the model holds that is sought after even at the price of murder. It seems the model's sails contain stitchwork which, in Morse code, give directions to the hiding place of a fortune left by the original owner of the model. Drummond comes close to death trying to prevent the villains from decoding the message and stealing the treasure.

Tom Conway is a polished Drummond. June Vincent, rightful claimant to the fortune, supplies the romantic interest. Jean Yarbrough directed, from a Frank Gruber-Irving Elman script.

Running time, 68 minutes. General audience classification. For March release.

P.E.L.

Insisted on Clearance

(*Continued from page* 1)

the only Paramount film offered him immediately after a Loop run was a Pine-Thomas picture, and that others were offered after 14 days or more clearance.

It was brought out that Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, negotiated in behalf of the Jackson Park as adviser on buying product, but that Salkin signed all contracts. Salkin stated there was a shortage of product available to the Jackson Park because competitive Balaban and Katz outlying houses played double features. The hearing is expected to continue for several weeks.

Lewis Bill Hearing

(*Continued from page* 1)

Myers had requested a postponement early in the week but had been turned down on the ground that such a delay at the request of one side would not be fair to the other. Then, he said, opponents of the bill asked for a delay too, and he decided to grant it since both sides were seeking it.

The delay will give the Theatre Owners of America a chance to work out their stand more fully at their West Coast meeting on March 9-10.

Fourteen More Films Classified by Legion

Six of 14 pictures newly reviewed by the National Legion of Decency have been classified A-I; they are: "Angels' Alley," "Jiggs and Maggie in Society" and "Joe Palooka in Fighting Mad," all Monogram; "The Challenge," 20th Century-Fox; "Tale of the Navajos," M-G-M, and "The Return of the Whistler," Columbia.

Rated A-II were: "B. F.'s Daughter," M-G-M; "Black Bart" and "Dear Murderer," both Universal-International; "Caged Fury," Paramount, and "Half Past Midnight," "Let's Live Again" and "Meet Me at Dawn," all 20th-Fox. Eagle-Lion's "Bury Me Dead" was rated Class B.

Exhibition Silent on Forced Parking

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 25.—The Desmond Bill has advanced still further in the State Senate. Enactment would compel operators of new theatres and other new places of public assembly to furnish off-street parking facilities of 200 square feet for each 10 seats of a property's total capacity. No protests have been heard as yet from exhibition interests against the bill, which has reached its third Senate reading.

FCC Alters Set-up On Para. Video Bids

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The schedule for the Federal Communications Commission hearings on applications of Paramount subsidiaries for television permits is being completely revamped. At a pre-hearing conference today, it developed that the Washington hearings to determine whether Paramount controls these companies and would thereby exceed the five-station maximum allowed any one company if the applications were approved, will not start March 1 as scheduled.

Instead, they will come at the conclusion of many weeks of field testimony on whether the Paramount companies are entitled to the channels. These hearings are expected to open in Boston on March 15, to be followed by hearings in San Francisco, Dallas, Cleveland, Detroit, and possibly other locations. The full FCC will determine the schedule tomorrow.

Allied 'Vigilantes'

(*Continued from page* 1)

anti-Ascap bill pending in Congress.

It was agreed to take associate members into Kansas-Missouri Allied from adjacent territories where there are no Allied organizations and extend to the associates full Caravan service.

The board also provided for a series of district meetings, the first to be held in Webb City, Mo., on March 9.

A committee was appointed to explore the possibility of a reduction in motor film delivery rates, which are believed to be out of line and to encourage cooperatives, if necessary, for relief.

A spring convention is to be held at a date not set, probably about the middle of May and a committee on arrangements was appointed with the power to act. Jack Stewart at this, the first board meeting since he became general manager, outlined his plans.

Allied's MPF Stand

(*Continued from page* 1)

chairman of its finance committee, who said he believes the Allied board is not cognizant of the importance of the industry welfare foundation's purpose and objectives.

If the Allied board were aware of the extent to which the MPF intends to assist the industry's needy it would not have expressed disapproval, Goldenson holds. He said he hopes Allied's high command will reverse its stand.

Goldenson said the first full meeting of MPF trustees, following the initial organizational meeting held here last December, will take place late next month, probably in New York. It is expected to produce a full-scale blueprint of the MPF program, based on studies and surveys currently being made by a number of Foundation committees and sub-committees.

Kane, Wirthwein

(*Continued from page* 1)

tle, Salt Lake and Denver, has been promoted to assistant division manager of the Western division, to assist George Smith.

"The positions are newly-created, in line with a number of steps being taken to synchronize the work of the distribution department under changing conditions," the company said.

Rank Hears Theatre Protests on GFD

LONDON, Feb. 25.—A closed meeting of representative British exhibitors with J. Arthur Rank here tonight reportedly was confined to a discussion of exhibitor complaints that Rank's General Film Distributors has been taking unfair advantage of the import tax situation by imposing drastic booking terms for its films.

No statement was issued tonight. It had been believed earlier that the meeting might provide an occasion for preparation of joint action on a protest to the government against the film tax.

British Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

Department officials in Washington and is being given the latter's cooperation in seeking a solution to the film tax problem. The inference is that Johnston will arrive here fully acquainted with the State Department's intentions in the matter.

Considerable apprehension is evidenced in governmental circles here over the possibility that the success of the discussions may be placed in jeopardy if the press makes a Roman holiday of them. That could lead to interruptions by well-meaning, lesser persons, whose previous hopes were often left unfulfilled in consequence of earlier interference, it was pointed out.

Treasury and Board of Trade spokesmen had not been informed in advance of Johnston's scheduled visit to London, but said that no doubt suitable arrangements could be made for ministerial interviews if Johnston desired them.

MPAA's London office, likewise obviously worried over the possible adverse effects on the discussions of too much publicity, said that Johnston will not be available to the press or to any other approach, while here. The explanation suggested was that his London visit is only in the capacity of an observer or, if required, as an adviser.

Allen Dulles to Accompany Johnston on London Trip

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25. — Allen Dulles, Motion Picture Association of America adviser on foreign affairs, will accompany MPAA president Eric Johnston and Joyce O'Hara on their trip to London and possibly Paris, it was announced here today.

England to Require an Annual Report on Production Details

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Beginning early in 1949, every segment of British production will be compelled under the new Statistics of Trade Act, to make a yearly report of their activities. The information will be incorporated in a governmental annual census of production.

Eire Film Tax Off April 15

DUBLIN, Feb. 25.—April 15 has been set as the date for revocation of additional admission taxes imposed last October, the new Eire cabinet has announced.

$3,500,000 for 'Henry'

United Artists and the J. Arthur Rank Organization here report "Henry V" to date has grossed an estimated $3,500,000 in the United States, with a net profit in excess of $1,400,000.

U-Rank Talks

(*Continued from page* 1)

will accompany him and resume negotiations there.

Negotiations are concerned with continuation of the U-I and Rank reciprocal relationships in the light of experience to date and future effects upon them of Britain's treatment of American films. Final outcome may be dependent upon settlement of the *ad valorem* film tax problem.

Rank is reported as being satisfied at this stage of the talks that his viewpoint as to the need for increased playing time for his pictures in America is appreciated.

J. Cheever Cowdin, Universal board chairman; Nate J. Blumberg, president; Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel, and Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, went to Denham today for a screening of the Rank-Laurence Olivier production of "Hamlet" and to confer with Rank's production executives there. With their wives, they will leave for Paris on Friday and will return here next week preparatory to embarking for New York.

MPAA, Canada Quota

(*Continued from page* 1)

ca, an MPAA spokesman disclosed here yesterday following a report from Ottawa that official discussions between the Dominion and the U. S. industry are proceeding satisfactorily.

Also participating in the discussions is J. J. Fitzgibbons, head of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

That MPAA is meeting with success in its efforts is evident, it was said, in the fact that Dominion Trade Minister Howe this week informed the Canadian Parliament that the dollar situation facing the U. S. film industry in Canada "calls for a more imaginative and constructive approach" than the application by Canada of quotas on film imports.

Reporting that last year Canadian rentals for U. S. films amounted to $12,000,000, Howe said that the industry will help solve the exchange problem not by Canadian business contraction but by production development in Canada. In reporting the 1947 rental total yesterday, MOTION PICTURE DAILY indicated it to be $12,000 a typographical error.

Archibald, Bennett On Visits to U. S.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—George Archibald, managing director of J. Arthur Rank's Independent Producers, Ltd., and Compton Bennett, British film director, will leave for New York Friday on the *SS Queen Mary*. Archibald will make preparations for Rank's visit to New York, March 10, and Bennett is en route to Hollywood to direct "Forsyte Saga," starring Greer Garson.

British Monarchs to 'Hamlet' Premiere

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The King and Queen will attend the premiere of the J. Arthur Rank-Lawrence Olivier production of "Hamlet" at the Odeon Leicester Square here on May 6. Proceeds will go to King George's pension fund for actors and actresses.

This will be the first occasion on which Britain's reigning monarchs have attended the first night of either a play or film.

Labor Probe

(*Continued from page* 1)

rell," the hearing decided to go into the matter.

First of all, ranking labor committee member Gerald W. Landis (R., Ind.) asked for the appearance of a witness "from each side" to testify on the Communist charge. Then, late in the afternoon, after telephone conferences with Hartley in New York, Landis announced the enlargement of the committee and the fact that it was now charged to investigate the alleged Communist aspect of the strike.

"We will have a full hearing from all sides," Landis said, "and let the chips fall where they may."

Kearns, who will be chairman of the five-man group, explained that the investigation of alleged Communist activity was "in no way to be considered as a single angle of the hearings, but was part of the overall testimony."

The other members of the committee are Landis, O. C. Fisher, John S. Wood and Thomas L. Owens.

In outlining his policy for the new aspect of the investigation, Kearns declared that every person whose name is mentioned at the hearings will be notified and given an opportunity to appear before the unit.

Levy, only witness today, told the House Labor subcommittee that there are two forces at work in the Hollywood dispute "which normally would not be allied, but in this particular instance are joined in a marriage of convenience for the purpose of destroying the dominant position which IATSE holds in the industry."

Names 'Reds,' Hutcheson

He identified these "forces" as the Communist Party drive for control of Hollywood labor and "the Carpenters' union, and the burning ambition of William L. Hutcheson to dominate studio labor."

Levy said IATSE was the one bulwark in Hollywood against the Communist conquest of studio labor. If IATSE were eliminated, he continued, then there would be a struggle for supremacy between Hutcheson and the Communist Party. "Mr. Hutcheson would then quickly find out how little real economic strength he has in the studios," Levy added.

Hutcheson has already indicated that he wants a chance to reply.

Levy submitted to the Congressional group a letter which he sent to Kearns in November, 1947, for Richard F. Walsh, IATSE head. In the letter, Levy asserted that the 1946 strike was "only one of a series of strikes, all of which were part of the agitation to disrupt labor relations in the Hollywood studios, to destroy the IATSE as a collective bargaining representative of the studio unions, and to install in its place a pro-Communist industrial type of union which would, at the appropriate time, join hands with the pro-Communist elements in the studio talent guilds, and especially in the Screen Writers Guild, so as to place the motion picture industry under the domination of the Communists and their pro-Communist friends and sympathizers."

Alleges Sorrell-CSU-'Red' Ties

Levy read various documents purporting to show the Communist record and associations of Sorrell and the CSU.

In his morning testimony, Levy read from a letter by Walsh to AFL head William Green, charging there had been two clarifications made in August 1946. One, he said, was the clarification drawn up by the three-man arbitration committee. The other, he maintained, was a "false clarification" sent out to the unions on the West Coast, which interpreted the disputed jurisdiction to the benefit of the carpenters.

Later he quoted from a letter he wrote to Kearns in which he declared that the differences among the unions might have been resolved through "normal trade union channels if not for Communist infiltration and tactics."

Levy is scheduled to return to the stand tomorrow, with tentative appearances slated for former Motion Picture Association of America labor expert Pat Casey, Hutcheson and Sorrell.



SWASHBUCKLING SPECTACLE IS BACK ON THE SCREEN!

"Rousing plume-and-sabre saga... geared to sweeping action...superbly staged 10-minute dueling match between De Cordova and Sutton!" —VARIETY

"ADVENTURES OF CASANOVA"

An Eagle Lion Films Production



The Leading Figure In The Industry Leads The Industry In Academy Award Nominations!



Best Motion Picture of the Year	"GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" · "MIRACLE ON 34th STREET"
Best performance by an Actor	GREGORY PECK "Gentleman's Agreement"
Best performance by an Actress	DOROTHY McGUIRE "Gentleman's Agreement"
Best performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role	EDMUND GWENN "Miracle on 34th Street" · RICHARD WIDMARK "Kiss of Death"
Best performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role	CELESTE HOLM · ANNE REVERE "Gentleman's Agreement"
Best Achievement in Directing	ELIA KAZAN "Gentleman's Agreement"
Best Written Screenplay	MOSS HART · RICHARD MURPHY · GEORGE SEATON "Gentleman's Agreement" "Boomerang!" "Miracle on 34th Street"
Best Original Motion Picture Story	VALENTINE DAVIES · ELEAZAR LIPSKY "Miracle on 34th Street" "Kiss of Death"
Best Achievement in Film Editing	HARMON JONES "Gentleman's Agreement"
Best Achievement in Black-and-White Art Direction	LYLE WHEELER · MAURICE RANSFORD "The Foxes of Harrow"
Best Scoring of a Musical Picture	ALFRED NEWMAN "Mother Wore Tights"
Best Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture	ALFRED NEWMAN · DAVID RAKSIN "Captain from Castile" "Forever Amber"
Best Original Song	MACK GORDON (Lyrics) · JOSEF MYROW (Music) · for "YOU DO" "Mother Wore Tights"
Best Cinematography, Black and White	CHARLES LANG, Jr. "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir"
Best Cinematography, Color	HARRY JACKSON "Mother Wore Tights"

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 39 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1948 TEN CENTS

Casey Places Studio Strike Blame on AFL

Prescribes Round-Table Talks for Settlement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. — Pat Casey, former chairman of the producers' labor committee, today blamed the American Federation of Labor for the studio jurisdictional strikes and declared that there was no Communist element in the situation.

Casey told the House Labor subcommittee, now in its eighth day of hearings on the matter, that the AFL had given the three-man arbitration committee "a job no human being could have done in the time they were supposed to do it," and added that the only way to settle the jurisdictional situation was to have "all the people around a table giving and taking."

Committee chairman Carroll D. Kearns picked up this point later, when William L. Hutcheson, president of the Carpenters' Union, took the stand briefly. He believed, Kearns

(Continued on page 4)

Para., 20th, WB Win Percentage Motions

A precedent was said to have been established respecting demands of bills-of-particulars which are customarily made by exhibitors in answering percentage complaints, when Justice Ferdinand Pecora of the New York Supreme Court ruled here yesterday in favor of Paramount, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Brothers on motions

(Continued on page 4)

O'Connor and Sanford Head Charity Group

John J. O'Connor, Universal-International, is chairman and Bert Sanford, Altec Service, is vice-chairman of the motion picture division of Cardinal Spellman's Committee of the Laity for the 1948 Appeal of New York Catholic Charities. They will be aided by a score of film leaders here.

A goal of $2,500 000 has been set for the appeal. which begins on April 18 and will run through the 28th.

Will Demand UK Nationalize Its Production

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The British Film Industry Employes Council, central agency of film unions here, will call for nationalization of the British production industry when the new British Joint Production Council meets in London, probably early next month.

George Elvin, FIEC secretary, has acknowledged that he will introduce and press a recommendation at the Council meeting that all film studios and production equipment in Britain be put under government control.

Meanwhile, the British Board of Trade, which called for formation of the Council, has requested nominations of individuals to head the new organization. Seven production representatives and seven trade union leaders will make up the Council.

The BOT, headed by Harold Wil-

(Continued on page 4)

First Mexican Film Firm 'Nationalized'

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 26.—Clasa Films Mundiales, a top film producer in this country, is the first motion picture company to come under governmental supervision, having been placed under the wing of the National Properties Ministry, which was organized in 1946 by President Miguel Aleman for the announced purpose of controlling government expenditures. Clasa is one of several producers subsidized in part by the government.

The Properties Ministry supervises the Bank of Mexico, Petroleos Mexicanos, oil company; the Mexican Social Insurance Institute, and Azucar, S.A., large sugar company.

NAB Board Weighs Plan to Use Films

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Feb. 26.—With four national networks pledged to contribute $50,000 toward a $200,000 fund, the National Association of Broadcasters board of directors has taken under advisement a proposal for use of motion pictures to present radio's case to the public. Effectiveness of radio for advertising, entertainment and public interest features would be stressed.

The board also approved a new draft of the Standards of Practice code which must be presented to the NAB membership before the May convention.

Johnston Off Today For British Talks

Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America will leave New York by plane for London this afternoon for a series of top-level conferences looking to a settlement of Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax. He is due in the British capital tomorrow around noon.

Making the flight with the MPAA head will be Joyce O'Hara, his executive assistant, and Allen Dulles, MPAA adviser on foreign affairs. From London the party may go to Paris later.

Rodgers Testifies On Loew's Plan for Chicago Releases

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—W. F. Rodgers, Loew's general sales manager, was called to the stand today in the Jackson Park Theatre decree contempt hearing in U. S. District Court here and admitted the company had devised a new clearance plan ranging from seven, 14 and 21 days over first subsequent-run theatres. Rodgers said the new plan, which resulted from the Jackson Park decree, was tentative and has not yet been reduced to writing.

"I feel we should be granted first-run clearance of at least three weeks to protect our interest over first subsequent-run houses," Rodgers said. "Frankly," he added, "I don't know

(Continued on page 2)

Meet on Voluntary Censorship March 3

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The meet- of film, radio and press representatives to discuss the advisability of "voluntary censorship" on national security news will be held here March 3, according to Capt. R. W. Berry, press aide to Secretary of Defense Forrestal.

No list is yet available of who will represent the newsreels and film producers, but only about 25 persons are expected for the meeting from all of the groups.

"We're not going to fight for this all the way," Capt. Berry said. "We want to sound out opinion. If this meeting wants to knock down any such schemes, they're dead—we'll not push them any further."

Douglas Meets Bevin for Tax Peace Parley

Both Scheduled to Talk To Stafford Cripps Next

LONDON, Feb. 26.—American Ambassador Lewis O. Douglas and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin conferred at length here today on Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax, exploring possible settlement avenues.

Indications in governmental circles are that continued progress is being made and that Douglas and Bevin next will have definitive talks with Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, prior to the arrival here Saturday from Washington of Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Foreign Office authorities re-emphasized today that Johnston's position here is best defined as that of an observer.

Meanwhile, Harold Wilson, presi-

(Continued on page 4)

Reels Act Today on Rank Olympics Deal

Representatives of the five U. S. newsreels will meet here today to consider action against an arrangement under which J. Arthur Rank is understood to have acquired exclusive rights to coverage of the Olympic Games in England this summer. The form of the protest, and to whom it will be directed, will be decided at the conference.

A spokesman for the newsreels here said yesterday it was not clear

(Continued on page 4)

Sherman To Produce Series of Westerns

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Harry Sherman has purchased screen rights to William C. Tuttle's "Hashknife" stories for $100,000 with the intention of re-entering the Western series field in which he produced 55 Hopalong Cassidy features.

Sherman, whose agenda of major feature productions will not be affected by this additional activity, is negotiating with Joel McCrea to star in the "Hashknife" group series. Distribution arrangements have not been set.

Personal Mention

E. S. GREGG, Westrex vice-president, will leave New York today for Hollywood.

•

SID KRAMER, RKO Radio assistant short subjects sales manager; WALTER BRANSON, Western division manager, and AL KOLITZ, Western district manager, will attend a company sales meeting in Salt Lake City this weekend.

•

TOMMY BREEN, M-G-M actor and son of JOSEPH I. BREEN, Production Code Administrator, will have two popular songs, written in collaboration with NACIO HERB BROWN, JR., published by Broadcast, Music, Inc.

•

STEVE BROIDY, Allied Artists-Monogram president, will begin a tour of company exchanges next week after the premiere of "Panhandle" in Amarillo, Texas, on Tuesday.

•

HENRY J. STITES, general counselor of the Kentucky Association of Theatre Owners, has returned to Louisville from Washington.

•

HAROLD MIRISCH, Allied Artists vice-president, has returned to Hollywood from a national exchange tour.

•

C. J. FELDMAN, Universal-International Western division sales manager, is on a two-week tour of the Midwest.

•

HENDERSON RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations director, will leave for the Coast on Monday.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, M-G-M short subjects sales head, will leave here Monday on a Midwestern trip.

•

ROBERT INGRAM, Columbia Southern district manager, has returned to Atlanta from New York.

Production Drops Slightly, to 30

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26. — Production activity lagged slightly with the index dropping to 30 from last week's 34. Work started on six new films while 10 were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "Shed No Tears" (Equity), Eagle-Lion; "Daredevils of the Sky" and "Alcatraz Prison Train," Republic; "Blood on the Moon" and "The Long Denial," RKO Radio; "Unfaithfully Yours," 20th Century-Fox.

Shooting finished on "Thunderhoof" (formerly "Wild Fury"), and "Loves of Carmen," Columbia; "Blonde Ice" (Mooney), Film Classics; "A Southern Yankee," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; "Murder by Alphabet," Monogram; "A Foreign Affair" and "Disaster" (Pine-Thomas), Paramount; "Carson City Raiders," Republic; "The Pitfall" (Regal), "Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven" (Golden), United Artists.

Proposes National Daylight Saving

Washington, Feb. 26.—A bill to put the entire U. S. on daylight saving time was introduced in the Senate today by Sen. Reed (R., Kan.)

National daylight saving prevailed during the last war.

Red Cross Appeal Now in Newsreels

A special three-minute Red Cross appeal trailer tacked on to current issues of the five newsreels is now being circulated to theatres as part of the annual fund drive. Making the appeal is Gregory Peck.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Appointment of the following committees to assist him on the 1948 American Red Cross Fund was announced by Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, and this year's chairman of the amusements division for the drive:

Circuit theatres: Edwin Silverman, Arthur Schoenstadt, James E. Coston, Elmer Balaban, John Balaban, Frank Smith, Harry Turrell; independent theatres: Jack Rose, Harold Gollos, Charles Lindau, Howard Lubliner, Samuel Roberts; film distributors: W. E. Banford, T. R. Gilliam, J. H. Stevens, Benesch, Louis Reinheimer; theatrical agents: Charles Hogan; music publishers: Jerry Baxter; producers and studios: Harris Silverberg; unions: E. J. Atkinson; operators' union: Thos. J. Burke; theatre janitors' union: Edward Donovan; film carriers' union: Clarence Jallas; theatre employes' union: Frank Gorey; Theatrical Protective Union: Sam Lamasky; Film Exchange Employes' Union, legitimate theatres: Herbert Ries.

Jersey Allied Meets In N. Y. on Monday

Edward Lachman, president of Allied of New Jersey, and Harry H. Lowenstein, retiring secretary of national Allied, will present to the membership of the Jersey organization at a meeting in New York on Monday a report on national Allied's board meeting held in Washington last week. The meeting will discuss recent developments in 16mm. competition, Ascap's new rates, and other matters, but is expected to by-pass any discussion of the Allied board's opposition to participation in the Motion Picture Foundation, according to Lachman.

Consider Ad Films For Capital Houses

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Washington independent theatre owners are "seriously considering" opening their screens to sponsored advertising films as a means of boosting declining revenues, the head of one larger independent circuit declared here today.

To Replace Burned Food

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—The Friendship Train food recently destroyed by a French warehouse fire will be completely replaced, according to Harry M. Warner, national chairman of the Friendship Train Committee. Cash donations of $40,000 received by the committee will be used to purchase canned milk, Warner said, and shipment will go forward immediately.

Rodgers

(*Continued from page* 1)

how to release pictures in Chicago without a great deal of study and time, and therefore withheld pictures until late December until we could come to some decision."

Rodgers said he had made these decisions in consultation with Ben Melnick, Loew's New York attorney, and E. M. Saunders, Loew's assistant general sales manager. He denied having any plan to defeat the decree. Rodgers, said, however, he thought the decree would be reversed on appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court, and therefore did not pay much attention to it.

Sought to Protect Clearance

Rodgers admitted Metro held up pictures in the Chicago area to protect clearance on first-runs. When asked by Thomas McConnell, Jackson Park attorney, about the 21 days clearance over subsequent-runs for "Green Dolphin Street" after it had played the Chicago Theatre, Rodgers said his interpretation of the decree was that it prohibited only a uniform clearance plan of all companies and that certain pictures could be granted clearance. McConnell stated the decree did not contain the word "uniform" with respect to clearance. Rodgers said that "Green Dolphin Street" was the company's biggest money-maker in recent years, and Chicago, he added, was the fourth largest city for film revenue.

16-Day Clearance for 'Kenyon'

W. C. Gehring, general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, followed Rodgers to the stand. Gehring stated that 20th-Fox's zoning plan was formulated with his participation for the purpose of dividing and subdividing theatres into a competitive area, geographically and theatre-wise. He admitted asking McConnell's permission to except "Gentleman's Agreement" from the decree so the picture could continue at the Apollo Theatre because it was a trial run and the picture's purpose was to combat anti-Semitism.

'Gentleman's Agreement' Excepted

McConnell said he could not interfere with such a program as long as this picture would not be used as a precedent. Judge Michael Igoe, presiding at the hearing, had also consented. Gehring said he did not think they were violating the decree by playing "Nightmare Alley" at the State-Lake over the two-week limit as long as it was released to outlying theatres. The Jackson Park played the film simultaneously with the State-Lake in its third week.

McConnell produced for Gehring the contracts for "Daisy Kenyon" at the United Artists which provided a 16-days clearance for subsequent-run. Gehring said it applied uniformly to all theatres. "Captain from Castile," which played the Chicago Theatre, had a 14-day clearance. Gehring stated that the purpose of clearance on these pictures was not for setting admission prices.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
RONALD COLMAN
"A DOUBLE LIFE"
SIGNE HASSO - EDMOND O'BRIEN
A Kanin Production
A Universal-International Release
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD to RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR
B'way at 45th St.

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

JAMES STEWART
"CALL NORTHSIDE 777"
20th Century-Fox
PLUS ON STAGE
HAZEL SCOTT
RAYE & NALDI
Extra! GIL LAMB
ROXY
7th Ave. & 50th St.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
starring DICK POWELL • SIGNE HASSO
A COLUMBIA PICTURE
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR
20th CENTURY-FOX
7th Ave & 47th St

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It's the word behind the word-of-mouth that counts!

Just a short time ago "SITTING PRETTY" went on the 20th sound stages...and by the end of the first day's shooting the grips were telling the carpenters...the carpenters were telling the electricians...the electricians were telling themselves and everybody else who'd listen about Belvedere*-and the word was out before a single ad, still or publicity story appeared...

That's the trade-mark of a truly great picture!

"SITTING PRETTY" has just been previewed in New York...and from what we could hear between the laughs we know that it will make you glad you're in show business.

It's so good you wouldn't believe us if we told you...so we're rushing prints to your territory and you'll soon be invited to see for yourself!

And what that word-of-mouth will do for your boxoffice!

20th CENTURY-FOX

SITTING PRETTY



ROBERT YOUNG · MAUREEN O'HARA · CLIFTON WEBB in "SITTING PRETTY" with RICHARD HAYDN · LOUISE ALLBRITTON · Randy Stuart · Ed Begley · Larry Olsen · John Russell · Betty Ann Lynn · Willard Robertson · Directed by WALTER LANG · Produced by SAMUEL G. ENGEL · Screen Play by F. Hugh Herbert · Based on a Novel by Gwen Davenport

*Belvedere does what the man behind "The Miracle On 34th Street" couldn't!

Casey Blames AFL

(*Continued from page* 1)

said, that Hutcheson and Richard F. Walsh, president of IATSE, could settle the matter between them.

Kearns declared that in his opinion the jurisdictional situation could be settled only by legislation or between Walsh and Hutcheson.

Reminding them that the motion picture industry was "the fifth largest industry in the United States," Kearns told the carpenters' chief, "It is my wish and prayer that you two sit down some time and discuss the matter. I hope you will be able to render the industry in the way of appreciation what the industry has rendered in the way of capital outlay to the men who have jobs in it."

Hutcheson replied to this that all the carpenters want is carpenters' work. "The 'IA' wants all the work," he asserted. "When Walsh is ready to concede to us we can settle this in five minutes—even in three minutes.'

Previously Congressman Owens had told Hutcheson that "the key" to the jurisdictional problem was in Hutcheson's hands.

Casey, who was recalled for questioning in the afternoon session, told the committee that from what he had heard in testimony at the hearing "there should be a lot of housecleaning in the AF of L." He declared that "the studio gates had never been closed," and added that in the whole history of the AFL he didn't know of "a single jurisdiction that both sides have lived up to."

Both Casey and painters' head L. P. Lindelof, who appeared briefly at the afternoon session, declared they did not think Herbert K. Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, was a Communist. Casey stated that Sorrell was "honest."

Screen Guild Sets 28 for 1948-49

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—A 1948-1949 release schedule of 28 films was announced at the recent annual meeting here of the Screen Guild Productions directors and franchise holders. Among the releases will be three Robert Lippert independent productions, four Edward Small reissues and 12 Hopalong Cassidys. The Lippert trio will comprise "Return of Wildfire," "Last of the Wild Horses," and an untitled dog yarn.

All directors were re-elected. An increased assessment from each franchise holder for the financing of future productions and purchase of outside product for the year was approved.

President John J. Jones, Western sales manager F. A. Bateman, Eastern sales manager Arthur Greenblatt, and vice-president Lippert presided.



Review

"Let's Live Again"

(Seltzer—20th Century-Fox)

Hollywood, Feb. 26

ON the basis of his first picture produced independently for 20th-Fox release, Frank N. Seltzer rates a warm welcome from exhibitors as a new source of feature comedy material all too rare in the flow of Hollywood product. His initial offering is a novelly-conceived, tastefully handled subject co-starring John Emery and Hillary Brooke. It is designed to pleasantly amuse rather than rock its audiences and in this it succeeded completely at a Hollywood preview. The production reflects the producer's veterancy in all branches of the industry and is highly polished merchandise with no limitations whatever on programming suitability.

Emery portrays an atomic scientist whose brother, an explorer, played by James Millican, flies to Tibet to investigate reported tangible proof of reincarnation and is reported dead in a plane crash. Emery is led to believe his departed brother has returned in the form of a dog which attaches himself to him and behaves in a manner to substantiate his belief. He attempts to establish means of mental communication with the animal which he believes to be his brother.

Psychiatrists, relatives, associates and friends are drawn into a steadily amusing sequence of events stemming from Emery's alternate acceptance and rejection of evidence of reincarnation, the picture ending on a surprise note after the brother's return convinces everybody but Emery. Herbert Leeds directed, from a script by Rodney Carlisle and Robert Smiley, based on a story by Herman Wohl and John Vlahos. Hugh King was associate producer.

Running time, 68 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

UK Nationalization

(*Continued from page* 1)

son, suggested formation of the Council a few months ago, envisioning it as a clearing house for ideas on ways and means for increasing British production and an agency wherein labor-management problems might be solved to the advantage of the industry.

Many observers here discern considerable tangibility in the threat of nationalization. No one believes it may come overnight. Government ministers have declared often that they have no such intention.

"Although the government has no mandate to nationalize the industry," Tom J. O'Brien, general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employes, stated, "the inescapable consequences of the muddled tax position on imported films will compel it either to stand by and see the entire industry disappear or take it over and save it from its oncoming paralysis."

Ask Bulgarian Nationalization

LONDON, Feb. 26. — Bills for the nationalization of the Bulgarian motion picture and radio industries were introduced today in the Bulgarian legislature, according to press reports reaching here from Sofia.

Douglas-Bevin

(*Continued from page* 1)

dent of the Board of Trade, as the principal speaker at a dinner tonight for Sir Michael Balcon, made it unmistakably clear that the government is prepared to conduct its negotiations for settlement of the tax in complete good will.

Tomorrow, Tom O'Brien, Member of Parliament, is to call on Bevin and will acquaint him with the views of the whole British film industry, as well as the film labor unions O'Brien represents, on the tax problem.

Sharin Quits E-L Post

Eugen Sharin, Eagle-Lion foreign sales executive since March, 1947, has resigned.

Rank Olympics Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

from whom Rank had obtained the sole right to film the games. An attempt will be made today to solve that mystery.

The reels have been given to understand that if they want shots of the games they will have to buy them from the Rank organization.

Percentage Motions

(*Continued from page* 1)

in their percentage actions against Jesse L. Stern, Abram H. Levy, and their corporations, operating the Parkwest and Washington theatres in Manhattan and the Howard in Brooklyn.

The court granted the motions of the distributors to modify certain demands made by the exhibitor defendants for detailed bills of particulars of the distributors' complaints against them. The distributor plaintiffs [illegible] represented by the law firm of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim, as attorneys.

The court held that the distributors were not required to furnish copies or contents of statements made by the defendants showing that they knew that the reports of gross admission receipts were a material factor in determining flat rentals, or other details as to how they acquired such knowledge, and that the distributors need not furnish copies of statements of receipts made by the exhibitors.

The court also struck out the defendants' demand for a statement of the law providing that the exhibitors are required to preserve their records and their demand for copies of the license agreements, except for specimens.

Re-elected to AMPP Post

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Robert M. W. Vogel has been re-elected chairman of the international committee of the Association of Motion Picture Producers.

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"SUMMER HOLIDAY"

WED., MARCH 3rd

1:30 P.M.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 40 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1948 TEN CENTS

Federal Tax Cut Hopes Are Dim Here

50 - 50, or Less, Chance Of Relief Is Seen Now

Expectations in exhibition circles here that the Federal wartime emergency admission tax will be abrogated by Congress this year have dimmed considerably since last fall, notwithstanding the fact that several bills designed to bring the present 20 per cent levy down to the pre-war 10 per cent level have been introduced in Congress meanwhile.

Citing the Czechoslovakian crisis and other ominous developments abroad in the "cold war" as calculated to swell the government's financing of the Marshall Plan thus sustaining and perhaps increasing the need for tax revenue, many theatre organization representatives here believe there is no chance whatever for a Federal tax reduction this year, or even next.

Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the Theatre Owners of Amer-

(*Continued on page 3*)

'Showman' Awards To Be Judged Today

Record number of finalists to compete for the annual *Quigley Showmanship Awards* will be appraised by more than 100 executives of the *Quigley Awards Committee,* at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, here, this morning.

The finalists represent those whose showmanship was the most outstanding during the four quarters of 1947, in a year which brought the largest number of contenders in the 15 years of the showmanship promotions in the *Managers Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald,* coming from all

(*Continued on page 3*)

Technicolor Cited In D. of J.'s Program

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—In testifying on the Justice Department's 1948-49 appropriation before the House Appropriations Committee, John F. Sonnett, anti-trust chief, cited the pending suit against Technicolor, Inc., as being typical of the Department's

(*Continued on page 2*)

MPAA Aide Denies Bars for Studio Jobs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Motion Picture Association of America attorney Maurice Benjamin declared here at the weekend that the men who engaged in the 1946 studio strike are free to make application for work in the studios and will be employed "if, as and when there is work for them." He made the statement before the House Labor sub-committee on Friday.

"For a long time before this committee began its investigation [of the Hollywood jurisdictional strike] in Los Angeles," Benjamin said, "members of all striking unions have been free to work in the studios by applying for employment." Employment has been available to them without discrimination whether they are members or non-members of unions, he added.

Benjamin took the stand after Paul Hinst, a member of the Carpenters' union, testified that he was laid off on the last day of the strike, Sept. 23, 1946, and had never worked in a

(*Continued on page 3*)

Exchange Pay Raise Effective Today

Within the next two weeks, some 6,300 film exchange employes in the country's 32 exchange cities will receive retroactive pay checks totaling about $400,000 under the new IATSE wage contract which became effective last midnight. Beginning today, the 6,300 workers' salaries are subject to a 15 per cent cost-of-living raise, representing an increase of approximately $1,719,000 annually over present combined payrolls of nine companies: Universal, RKO Radio, United Artists, 20th Century-Fox, Republic, Loew's, Columbia, Warners and Paramount. Increases are retroactive to last Dec. 1.

Three from Kramer For United Artists

Plans of Screen Plays, Inc., to make three pictures in the next two years were disclosed here Friday by Stanley Kramer, president and executive producer of the new independent company, who said they will be budgeted at $850,000 to $1,300,000. He plans release by United Artists.

Screen Plays' first production, Henry Morgan's "So This Is New York," is about to be released by U.A. It will select its next from among these: "Wide House," Taylor Caldwell novel; "Champion," a Ring Lardner story; "Adah Menken," a biography of the old-time musical comedy star by Carl Foreman.

Expediter Approved 678 Theatre Plans

Washington, Feb. 29.—Since July 1, 1947, the Office of the Housing Expediter has approved 678 theatre projects, valued at $25,505,929, and denied 1,881, valued at $82,271,009.

The general feeling is that amusement permits are harder to get now, in order to make up for the loss of controls on other items and for construction done without permits in violation of the law.

House Probe Heads 'IA' Board Agenda

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 29.—The Congressional investigation of the Hollywood jurisdictional strike is expected to head the agenda of the semi-annual meeting of the IATSE general executive board which will open at the William Penn Hotel here tomorrow and continue for a full week. It is expected also that the board will set a date for "IA's" bi-annual convention this summer, and will set up machinery for "IA's" participation in the American Federation of Labor's "League for Political Education."

Richard F. Walsh, "IA" international president, will preside. Other members of the board are Harland Holmden, William P. Covert, Floyd M. Billingsley, James J. Brennan, Roger M. Kennedy, Felix D. Snow, Carl G. Cooper, William C. Barrett, Louise Wright and William P. Raoul.

U.S. Export License Rule Starts Today

Effective today, all shipments of films and film equipment to Europe will require individual validated licenses under a new U. S. Department of Commerce regulation first announced on Jan. 16. The licenses will be required for all countries of Continental Europe, the British Isles, Iceland, Turkey, Russia, all Asiatic possessions of the USSR and Turkey, Portugal, Tangier, Spain, all of Spain's colonial possessions, and the Mediterranean islands.

Nathan D. Golden, Department motion picture consultant, explained the new licensing procedure to a meeting of the film companies' foreign department chiefs at Motion Picture Association of America's offices here on Friday.

Cripps Parley Advances Tax Peace Formula

Douglas Sees Chancellor; London Is Optimistic

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Well informed governmental figures declared with evident assurance yesterday that a formula for settlement of the British *ad valorem* film tax now is well in sight.

The statements were made following a lengthy meeting between U. S. Ambassador Lewis O. Douglas and Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Friday.

It is understood that the Douglas-Cripps talks were definitive and progressed without serious problems being encountered. Douglas' visit to Cripps followed an earlier, also lengthy, conference between Douglas and Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin on the *ad valorem* tax.

It was indicated in some official quarters that a settlement formula al-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Johnston Dubious Of Tax Settlement

Doubt that his London visit would lead to a settlement of the Anglo-American dispute over the 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax on U. S. films was expressed by Eric Johnston on Friday afternoon before the Motion Picture Association of America president took off for the British capital from La-Guardia Field here.

"I'm not very optimistic—quite the contrary," Johnston said when asked if he expected a settlement to come out of any conferences on the tax situation in which he might take part

(*Continued on page 3*)

MPAA Asks US Bar Mexican Ad Valorem

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The Motion Picture Association of America on Friday asked the Government to make sure that the Mexican government did not establish any *ad valorem* taxes on films and advertising and publicity accessories from the United States.

Ted Smith, who presented the

(*Continued on page 3*)

Personal Mention

JEREMY GURY has been elected vice-president and appointed copy director of Donahue and Coe.

•

FRANK BOUCHER of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Washington, D. C., has returned to the Capital following conferences here with ROBERT COYNE, Theatre Owners of America executive director.

•

JOHN MURPHY of Loew's has returned from a tour of Southern theatres; DAN TERRELL of Loew's advertising department, who accompanied him, will return today.

•

DAVID D. HORNE, Monogram International officer, has left here on an inspection tour of the Caribbean and South American exchanges.

•

B. G. KRANZE, vice-president and general sales manager of Film Classics, here, in in San Francisco surveying that territory.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's general theatre executive, will return today from a Havana vacation.

1,302 Theatres Are in DallasExchangeArea

There are 1,302 theatres with a seating capacity of 706,682, in operation in the Dallas exchange area, according to a Dallas theatre directory released by Motion Picture Association of America.

The 28th in a series of 31, the directory reveals that there are 791 theatres circuit-operated, a circuit being defined as four or more theatres operated by the same management. The area's four largest cities: Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Fort Worth have 170 theatres, with a seating capacity of 151,260.

There are 466 theatres in 401 towns with a population of 2,500 and under. These account for 170,574 seats, or an average of 366 seats per house.

Craddock Is Named E-L Branch Head

William J. Heineman, Eagle-Lion vice-president in charge of distribution, has appointed Gordon C. Craddock Indianapolis branch manager. Craddock, who assumes his new duties today, has been with Universal for more than 15 years, in sales posts. He was branch manager in Indianapolis and Portland, and also was a sales department executive at the home office.

Dudelson Rejoins UA As Cleveland Head

Harris Dudelson has been appointed Cleveland branch manager for United Artists, by J. J. Unger, general sales manager. Dudelson rejoins United Artists after a short absence.

He previously managed in St. Louis and Cincinnati.

MPAA To Aid Vets Get More Films

Full aid of the Motion Picture Association of America in improving and extending the program of film entertainment for disabled veterans was offered to the Veterans Administration on Friday in an address by Taylor Mills of the MPAA at the final session of a meeting of regional film chiefs of the VA, representatives of the association and other distributors, held at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel here. The conferences started last Monday.

Increase Budget for Overseas Film Unit

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—House Appropriations Committee has recommended giving the State Department $28,000,000 to operate its overseas information program, including the international motion picture division, during 1948-49.

This is $6,378,000 less than was asked for by the President, but is $16,000,000 more than the $12,000,000 voted the program for the current year.

No funds were asked for or voted in this budget to aid the film industry and other information media in their foreign remittance and distribution problems. Presumably this will be included in a supplemental budget request once the State Department works out details of what aid it can give.

Of the total asked for the program, some $4,878,749 was asked for the motion picture division, including the film program's share of overseas expenditures. This would compare with $907,504 this year. The budget for production and equipment only was $2,621,000 for the coming year, compared with $250,000 this year.

MGM Sales Parley Opening at Studio

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 29.—With the arrival of 13 M-G-M home office executives, field sales managers and territorial assistants, William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager, will begin the first of a five-day conference tomorrow at the M-G-M studios here. Screenings will be held on six new films to be released during the next six months. Discussions also will be held on sales policies.

Emerling To Speak

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Feb. 29.—Ernest Emerling, national advertising-publicity director of Loew's Theatres, will discuss "Motion Picture Theatre Advertising" as a principal speaker at the New England Newspaper Advertising Executives Association convention which will be held March 9 at the Hotel Kimball, here.

Video Clinic Set By CBS March 31

A nation-wide television network clinic will be held in New York by Columbia Broadcasting System on March 31, Frank Stanton, president, announced here at the weekend. The event marks another phase of CBS's long-range network plans.

Invitations have been sent to key management executives of 165 stations on the CBS network. Citing one reason for the clinic, Stanton said that while "both the general and trade press have done an outstanding job in covering the many facets and constantly shifting pattern of television's growth," broadcasters far removed from the present key television centers "have had trouble in piecing together the scattered segments of television information to make a comprehensible whole."

Stanton will make the opening address at the clinic. Presiding will be Lawrence Lowman, CBS vice-president in charge of television.

Coston On Stand in Jackson Park Case

CHICAGO, Feb. 29.—Hearing of charges that the defendants in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust case are in contempt of the Federal Court decree in that action will enter the second week before Judge Michael Igoe here tomorrow.

James Coston, head of Warner Theatres here, is expected to be the first witness called when the hearings resume. Thomas McConnell, attorney for the Jackson Park, completed the case for the plaintiff last Friday except for certain documents which he will introduce in evidence.

McConnell continued his cross-examination of Ed Johnston, attorney for Paramount, on Friday. In reply to questions, Johnston denied he had conspired with other defendants to evade the decree. Balaban and Katz, he said, has been placed at a disadvantage because the decree has suppressed competition with theatres not involved in the case.

Chart Regional Premiere

Preparations leading up to a six-state regional premiere of 20th Century-Fox's "Scudda Hoo! Scudda Hay!" will get under way this week with the arrival of Rodney Bush, exploitation manager, in Kansas City to meet with Elmer Rhoden, head of the Fox Midwest Circuit and his staff. Bush left New York yesterday.

Paul Everton, 79

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 29.—Paul Everton, stage and screen actor, died at the weekend of a heart attack at the Motion Picture Country House. He had retired to the country house three months ago.

Palmer, WB Auditor, Dies

Ray Palmer, traveling auditor for Warner Brothers since 1931, died Thursday night in Atlanta. Funeral services were held Saturday in Washington, where he lived. He leaves a widow, a daughter and son.

Newsreel Parade

PALESTINE and the UN are highlights in all current newsreels. Other top subjects include the Communists' control of Czechoslovakia, President Truman on a Caribbean cruise and Gen. Eisenhower as a civilian. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 17.—Tragedy of Palestine. Czechoslovakia taken over by Communists. President Truman on Caribbean cruise. Gen. Eisenhower starts civilian life. Hialeah races.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 251.—Palestine tragedy. Explosion rocks Jerusalem. UN crisis. Haganah ship drama. "New look" for Gen. Eisenhower. Czechoslovakia in chains.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 54.—Communists control Czechoslovakia. President Truman on Caribbean cruise. Gen. Eisenhower in civilian clothes. Palestine and the UN.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 121.—UN ponders Palestine crisis. Bomb explosion in Jerusalem. Refugee ship seized by the British. President Truman tours the Caribbean. Third party candidates. Gen. Eisenhower dons civilian clothes.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 56.—U. S. rejects force in Palestine. Henry Wallace and Senator Taylor. President Truman on Caribbean tour. Gen. Eisenhower in civilian clothes. Widener cup race. Reds take over Czechslovakia. Great Americans: Sam Houston.

Cohn, Bricken Form Pioneer Pictures

Ralph Cohn, producer, has formed Pioneer Pictures, Inc., to make pictures in New York. Associated with Cohn, whose "Sleep, My Love" made with Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers is now in release, is Jules Bricken who supervised the New York end of David O. Selznick's "Portrait of Jennie."

Two stories have been purchased to be done in semi-documentary form and are slated for immediate production with budgets said to be set at $1,000,000 for each.

Technicolor Cited

(*Continued from page* 1)

"long-range program of attacking unlawful economic power in various industries."

The committee voted a substantial increase in anti-trust funds for the next fiscal year, recommending an appropriation for the anti-trust division of $3,411,700, more than $1,000,000 above this year's budget and over $150,000 more than the Administration requested.

The committee said it was deeply concerned over the increasing concentration of economic power, and urged the Department to push its campaign to enforce the anti-trust laws

Lawrence Hospitalized

Laudy Lawrence, vice-president in charge of foreign sales for the Selznick Releasing Organization, who arrived here recently from Europe for conferences with David O. Selznick, has been taken ill and is now confined to New York Hospital. Conferences with Selznick, as well as with Neil Agnew, SRO president, will be held later.

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Cripps Parley

(*Continued from page* 1)

ready may have been advanced sufficiently to present to representatives of the American industry for their reactions and advice. Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America; James Mulvey, representing the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, Hollywood; Joyce O'Hara, Johnston's assistant, and Allen Dulles, foreign adviser to the MPAA, arrived from New York by plane on Saturday.

Their roles are officially described as those of observers and, if required, advisers. The entire new tax settlement discussions thus far have been on the governmental level and have been marked by swift and sure progress in contrast to the months of stalemate in which the tax problem rested while it was being handled by the American industry.

It is not known whether Johnston and Mulvey have veto power over any agreement concluded by the government representatives or whether it would be necessary for them to inform their boards of directors in America of the proposal when transmitted to them, and await instructions from home.

No authoritative information is available concerning the proposed settlement terms being advanced. However, there is nothing yet to indicate there has been a departure from the previously reported proposal that motion pictures be classified as incentive goods in the European Recovery Program, and a settlement developed with that as a basis.

Reels Defer Action

Pending clarification of reports that J. Arthur Rank has entered into an arrangement giving him exclusive coverage of the Olympic Games in England this summer, representatives of the five U. S. newsreels here on Friday postponed action on the matter. The reels are awaiting an answer to a cable to the British Olympics committee asking for verification or denial of the reports. It was learned on Friday that no answer had been received by the American reels to a similar request made to the committee some time ago.

Tax Cut Hopes

(*Continued from page* 1)

ica, said that whereas a few months ago he saw a nine-to-one chance favoring elimination of the wartime tax in the present session of Congress, at present he believes there is only a 50-50 chance.

A more pessimistic outlook was expressed by Edward Lachman, president of the Allied of New Jersey, who holds there is no chance that the wartime tax will be abolished this year, claiming that the Government cannot afford the reduction at this time. Lachman fears that even if the 20 per cent Federal tax were cut in half this year, or next, such action would not work to the advantage of the theatres and their patrons because, he maintains, state and city governments would immediately increase existing admission taxes or impose new ones where such taxes are not already in effect.

Johnston

(*Continued from page* 1)

with British government officials and others while in England. Johnston declined to anticipate what such conferences might produce. "I'd be an oracle if I knew," he remarked.

The MPAA president asserted that London dispatches that he was going there with specific intentions of participating in conferences on the tax impasse were "a little inaccurate."

Disclaims UK Invitation

Johnston disclaimed that he was prompted to make the trip to London at the invitation of the government or other sources for the deliberate purpose of trying to solve the tax situation. However, he added, he would be glad to "explore" the problem if "they" wanted him to, although he had no appointments to discuss the matter with anyone in London, he said.

[London sources have described Johnston's role in the British film tax settlement negotiations now in progress as that of an observer or, if required, adviser.—*Ed. Note.*]

According to the MPAA head, even if a settlement were to result from any meetings in which he participated, he would not be vested with the authority to approve it officially.

Johnston said he was doubtful consideration would be given films in the Marshall Plan. "Perhaps we are thinking too much of material things when the problem of world security is more important," he observed.

May Visit Belgium, Italy

From London, Johnston said he planned to go to Paris to discuss the entry of American films into the French market. He disclosed that visits to Belgium and Italy might also be on his itinerary.

In the Johnston party were Joyce O'Hara, his executive assistant; Allen Dulles, MPAA adviser on foreign affairs, and James Mulvey, head of Samuel Goldwyn Productions who went along as representative of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers.

Theatre Damaged by Fire

MALVERN, Ark., Feb. 29.—Damage estimated at $200,000 was sustained by the Ritz Theatre in a fire which threatened a business block here. The blaze, according to E. J. Travis, manager of the Malvern Amusement Co., which operates the theatre, broke out in the projection rooms before the house opened.

MPAA Aide Denies

(*Continued from page* 1)

studio since. Hinst said he was employed by M-G-M at the time, and that he was not even able to collect unemployment compensation because, he told the committee, the compensation board had letters from the studios saying the carpenters had left work.

Five hours of the day's six-hour session was taken with questioning George A. Mulkey, representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Mulkey, who had expected to take the stand briefly to explain the January, 1948, contract between IBEW and IATSE, was asked if he had ever been a member of the Communist Party. He said he had been a member from 1923 to 1930.

Under further questioning he denied any "personal knowledge" of Communist activity in the Hollywood unions, but added that he believed a Communist element had "grabbed on" the jurisdictional conflict "in order to create more disturbance."

Richard F. Walsh, IATSE head, in a final and brief appearance before the House group late Friday afternoon, when questioned about Conference of Studio Unions president Herbert K. Sorrell, declared: "If Sorrell is not a Communist, he'll do until one comes along."

Line-up for this week includes IATSE counsel Matthew Levy, 'IA' representative Roy Brewer and Sorrell.

Mexican Ad Valorem

(*Continued from page* 1)

MPAA position before the Committee for Reciprocity Information at hearings on the proposed revision of the U. S.-Mexican reciprocal trade agreement, also asked that the U. S. ensure continued unrestricted importation of these items and that there be no increase in existing specific duties on any of these items.

He pointed out that Mexican films gross approximately $2,000,000 in this country annually, while American films earn $5,000,000 in Mexico.

'Showman' Awards

(*Continued from page* 1)

spheres of exhibition. Great Britain and other foreign countries alone will be represented by some 30 finalists.

Following the judging, Martin Quigley will be host at a luncheon at which Fred Schwartz, vice-president of Century Theatres, will be the principal speaker. Many out-of-town theatre executives will attend.

News Briefs

Cites Court Ruling Favoring Stern-Levy in Percentage Suit

Although Justice Ferdinand Pecora of New York Supreme Court ruled here on Thursday in favor of Paramount, 20th Century-Fox and Warner Brothers on motions in their percentage actions against local theatre operators Jesse L. Stern and Abram H. Levy, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY Friday, his rulings were not entirely in favor of the plaintiffs, Monroe Stein, attorney for Stern and Levy, said at the weekend.

Stein said Pecora ruled also that the distributors must indicate which pictures were involved in the complaints, and thereby upheld a motion made by the defendants.

Eagle-Lion Releases on Agenda Of Rank Conferences Here

During his American visit, J. Arthur Rank, who is due in New York from England on March 10, will confer with Robert R. Young, of Pathe Industries, and Eagle Lion executives Arthur B. Krim, William J. Heineman, Bryan Foy and Max E. Youngstein on sales and promotion plans for his current and forthcoming product to be distributed by E-L. "The Smugglers," "Take My Life" and "October Man" will be among the films discussed.

Rosenberg's New Colony Will Produce Two Yearly

Frank P. Rosenberg has purchased the novel, "Night Cry," by William L. Stuart, and will film it on an $800,000 budget as the first production for his new Colony Pictures. Rosenberg, former publicity-advertising chief of Columbia, is currently coproducing "Man-Eater of Kumaon," which Universal-International will release.

Colony is to make two films yearly.

Hyman, Fellerman to Rochester

Edward L. Hyman, vice-president of Paramount Theatres Service Corp., and Max Fellerman, executive, will leave here tomorrow to attend ceremonies in conjunction with the change in name of the Century Theatre to the Paramount in Rochester, N. Y. After the ceremony they will proceed to Cincinnati to consult with Jack Keegan, head of Northio Theatres, a Paramount affiliate, and will visit all of the theatres in Northio territory.

FILMACK OPENS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK PHONE PLAZA 7-3809

Here we are at 245 W. 55TH ST. Ready to serve you with finest special announcement trailers.

If you haven't tried Filmack's quality and rapid service, send us your next order and be agreeably surprised.

NEW YORK 245 WEST 55 STREET | FILMACK | 1327 S. Wabash, Chicago | Los Angeles 1574 W Washington st.

FILM SALESMAN WANTED

For Small Company handling specialty pictures to sell directly to theatres throughout Country. Must be willing to travel. Must be top-notch man.

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NEW SCREENING DATE!

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.

NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING

of

"I REMEMBER MAMA"

will be held at the

NORMANDIE THEATRE

51 East 53rd St., at Park Ave., New York, N. Y.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, at 10:30 A. M.

—and not on Wednesday, Mar. 3, as previously advertised

...ANYTHING

WITH YOUR BU

GREAT *WOMAN'S*

WON'T CURE?

THE MATTER

SINESS THAT A

PICTURE

COLUMBIA PICTURES
presents

SUSAN
PETERS

The Sign Of The Ram

watch it GROW!

co-starring

ALEXANDER KNOX · PHYLLIS THAXTER · PEGGY ANN GARNER

RON RANDELL · DAME MAY WHITTY · ALLENE ROBERTS



Screenplay by Charles Bennett • Based upon the novel by Margaret Ferguson

Directed by JOHN STURGES • Produced by IRVING CUMMINGS, JR. • AN IRVING CUMMINGS PRODUCTION

COLUMBIA PICTURES

MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT "A DOUBLE LIFE"

SENSATIONAL BUSINESS AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL!

and more praise from the critics . . .

"Rich and exciting . . . Colman has the most spectacular role of his career." —*N. Y. TIMES*

"A milestone in movie entertainment." —*N. Y. WORLD-TELEGRAM*

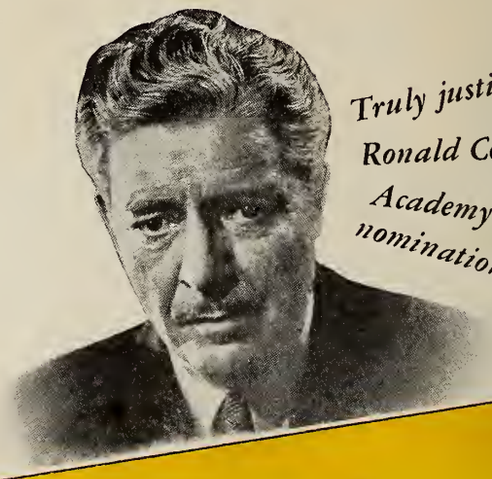
"Places Colman among the immortals of the screen." —*N. Y. DAILY NEWS*

"Tops is the word for 'A Double Life' . . . it's upper bracket in every department." —*N. Y. DAILY MIRROR*

"Excellent . . . everyone and everything is top-flight . . . Colman is magnificent." —*N. Y. JOURNAL-AMERICAN*

"Splendid . . . enough to fill a dozen Broadway theatres and give each one a hit." —*PM*

"A real delight." —*TIME MAGAZINE*



Truly justifying Ronald Colman's Academy nomination!

KANIN PRODUCTIONS Presents

Ronald Colman

giving NEW greatness to the Screen in

"A DOUBLE LIFE"

with

SIGNE HASSO • EDMOND O'BRIEN

SHELLEY WINTERS • RAY COLLINS • PHILIP LOEB

Written by RUTH GORDON and GARSON KANIN

Directed by GEORGE CUKOR • Produced by MICHAEL KANIN

A Universal-International Release

Universal International

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 41 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1948 TEN CENTS

Admission Tax Collections In A New Record

Million Over 1946's Top of $385,950,164

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Motion picture theatre grosses in 1947 were better than in record-breaking 1946, according to admission tax figures released here today by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

They show that general admission tax collections from February 1947, through January 1948, reflecting box-office business for the 1947 calendar year, totaled $386,789,733, compared with $385,950,164 for collections reflecting the 1946 calendar year.

Motion picture theatres are generally considered to account for 80 to 85 per cent of general admission tax collections.

Although receipts apparently continued at much the same level in 1947 as in 1946, this does not mean that attendance continued at the same rate, nor that profits did.

Brewer Backs 'IA' Charge on 'Red' Role

WASHINGTON, March 1. — The Kearns' sub-committee investigation of the Hollywood jurisdictional strikes produced even less than usual today—the 10th day of hearings.

Highlight of the morning session was a rousing battle of attorneys who "didn't like each other's attitude." The afternoon session was devoted to testimony by IATSE international representative Roy Brewer, who gave

(*Continued on page 6*)

Name MPAA, SIMPP In Suit by 10 Cited

LOS ANGELES, March 1.—Attorney Robert W. Kenney, representing the 10 Hollywood writers, producers and directors cited for contempt of Congress, today filed a Superior Court suit in their behalf against the Motion Picture Association of America, the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, and many company executives. Damages totalling $61,109,975 are sought, with 23 causes of action cited. The suit also asks for an injunction to restrain the defendants from alleged "blacklisting."

Top Showmen Judge Entries in Quigley 15th Annual Awards

Judging of the entries in the 15th annual Quigley Showmanship Awards competition was held yesterday in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here.

Some 60 home office advertising and publicity executives and circuit leaders inspected and voted on 63 final entries for the awards, made yearly by the Managers' Round Table of *Motion Picture Herald*.

Fred J. Schwartz, vice-president of Century Circuit, was the principal speaker at the luncheon that followed the judging, attended by more than 100 persons. Schwartz was introduced by Martin Quigley.

Schwartz said that the entries provided evidence that the industry was endowed with the mental equipment "to combat the lethargy that sometimes cripples showmanship."

Asserting that our sense of showmanship has become dull, the circuit executive said that "we have all been guilty in accepting our patrons as a matter of course," adding: "I'm afraid

(*Continued on page 3*)

45 Will Attend TOA Coast Board Meeting

Some 45 from exhibition and Government will attend the Theatre Owners of America officers and directors meeting to be held March 9-10 at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, it was announced here yesterday by Robert W. Coyne, TOA executive director.

BEVIN SAYS: 'THIS MUST BE SETTLED'

Senate's ERP Bill Omits Film Mention

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Any mention of films was conspicuously lacking in the Senate Foreign Relations committee's report on the European Recovery Program, made public here over the week-end.

In the incentive goods classification, tobacco was the only item mentioned. It has been reported from London that a possible basis for settlement of the British film tax would be to have films classified as "incentive goods," and while ultimate decision rests with the person finally chosen to administer the plan, several Congressmen and Senators here express doubt that films could ever be put in this category.

It is interesting to note, however, that one of the names currently mentioned for ERP administrator is Allen W. Dulles, MPAA foreign adviser.

Would Ease NY Law On Child Admittance

ALBANY, N. Y., March 1.—A bill extending to "towns" the authority granted in 1937 to cities and villages for admission of children to motion picture theatres unaccompanied by a parent, guardian or another adult person, if the theatre provides a matron, is now before the State Legislature.

Asks Peace Talks on British Tax Be Started 'Forthwith'; Meet Today

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, March 1.—"This must be settled!"

That is what Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin, speaking of Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax and Hollywood's resultant embargo on film shipments to this country, told luncheon guests here today.

The guests included Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps, Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade; Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America; Allen Dulles, MPAA adviser on foreign affairs; Sir John Henry Wood, Foreign Office Official, and others.

Bevin instructed the officials pres-

(*Continued on page 6*)

2nd 'Vigilante' Unit Planned by NJ Allied

Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey completed plans at a membership meeting here yesterday for setting up a "vigilante" committee dedicated to detecting any distributor violations of any final decree that may be handed down by the U. S. Supreme Court in the industry anti-trust suit. It was the second Allied unit to take steps to cooperate with the national Allied board decision to spread a network of such "vigilante" committees across the country, the first being Allied of Kansas-Missouri, reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Thursday.

Says Allied Board Fights Video Reels

INDIANAPOLIS, March 1.—Some Allied States board of directors who attended the Feb. 16-18 board meeting in Washington contended that 20th Century-Fox Movietone News, in selling a newsreel edition to television, did a "definite disservice to exhibitors" by speeding up and broadening television competition with theatres.

This previously undisclosed attitude is reported in the current bulletin of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, an Allied affiliate.

"The Miracle of the Bells"

[*Lasky Prod.-RKO Radio*] — **They Toll a Success**

IMMENSE audience satisfaction seems destined to be the happy fate of this sterling attraction. "The Miracle of the Bells" develops and, more to the point, maintains a high level of emotional content. It achieves this by the nature of its story, the calibre of performances delivered by its principal players and the warmth and appreciation which obviously found ready way into script, direction and production supervision.

Russell Janney's novel provided the structure for this drama with its recurring note of tragedy. Largely through the flashback technique it tells about Valli, urged by her Polish miner-father to forsake the grime and disease of underprivileged Coaltown, Pa., for life elsewhere. Her determination is the stage through which she struggles from one-night burlesque stands to Hollywood, propelled there by an unfailing faith which assures her that success will be great.

At infrequent intervals prior to this, Fred MacMurray, press agent, crosses her path. Once, at a rehearsal where he saves her job; again, on a lonely Christmas Eve in water-tower town. As understudy for a

(*Continued on page 6*)

Personal Mention

CHARLES SKOURAS, president of National Theatres, and DAN MICHALOVE, vice-president, will fly to Australia this month or next to survey the circuit's holdings in Hoyt's Theatres there.

•

LOUIS A. NOVINS, assistant to Paramount president BARNEY BALABAN, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast where he has been working in behalf of the Freedom Train.

•

ROBERT MOCHRIE, RKO Radio general sales manager, is expected back in New York Thursday from Hollywood.

•

JACK and MRS. AUSLET of Dixie Films, New Orleans, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Feb. 25. It was also MRS. AUSLET'S birthday.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal-International Southern and Canadian sales manager, will leave New York today for Charlotte, N. C.

•

DUDLEY NICHOLS, RKO Radio writer-director, has returned to Hollywood from New York.

•

JEROME J. COHEN, film insurance specialist, will celebrate a birthday next Monday.

•

JOHN J. JONES, Screen Guild Productions president, has left Hollywood for Chicago.

Thomas Still Ill, Hearings Delayed

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Continued illness of House Un-American Activities Committee Chairman Thomas has caused another postponement, this time for a month, in the trials here of the 10 Hollywood writers and directors charged with contempt of Congress.

Trial of John Howard Lawson, first of the 10, was today put back from March 8 to April 12.

Finston to Meet Press

Nathaniel Finston, co-producer and musical director of Monogram-Allied Artists' "Song of My Heart," will be host to the press today at the Warwick Hotel here. "Song of My Heart," based on the life and music of Tchaikowsky, will open at the Park Avenue Theatre here on Thursday.

Casey's Brother Dies

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 1.—Daniel Casey, 76, brother of Pat Casey, film industry labor relations consultant, died Saturday morning at Springfield General Hospital. He was a former vaudeville agent in New York. Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

List WB Holdings of $8,165,000 in ABP

Hollywood, March 1.—Holdings of $8,165,000 in Associated British Pictures, London, were reported today to the Securities and Exchange Commission by Warner Brothers Pictures.

The report, which included the company's financial statement for 1946-47, as published last Jan. 7, listed Humphrey Bogart as top Warner wage-earner for that year with $467,361, followed by Bette Davis, who received $328,000, and Dennis Morgan, $325,893.

25% Wage Increase Urged by UOPWA

Salary increases of 25 per cent, or $15 a week, were recommended yesterday in the officers' report to 600 delegates on the opening day of the convention of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn. Contract renewals in the motion picture industry, as well as several other industries were mentioned as concentration points for the entire union for bargaining work in 1948.

SPG Wins Wage Increase in Arbitration with 20th-Fox

Wage increases ranging from $5.50 to $20 weekly have been awarded the 20th Century-Fox unit of the Screen Publicists Guild in an arbitration announced by the American Arbitration Association.

Need Single License For US Film Experts

WASHINGTON, March 1.—A consolidated license for film exports to European countries has been approved by the Commerce Department, according to the Department's motion picture consultant, Nathan D. Golden.

The department's policy of requiring licenses for all shipments to Europe took effect today. The original plan was to require a license for each individual shipment, but Golden said the simplified procedure for films was approved at the 11th hour.

Lodge Cites Javits

New York Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith will pay tribute to U. S. Representative Jacob K. Javits for his Americanism, at a special meeting at the Hotel Astor here tonight. Javits will be presented with the Cinema Lodge "Honor Scroll" by Robert M. Weitman, president of the lodge. Pianist Hazel Scott will also be cited.

Lew Kerner Resigns

HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—Lew Kerner, executive talent director for Samuel Goldwyn Productions, has resigned.

News Briefs

Sir Philip Warter of London To Meet Warner Heads Today

Sir Philip A. Warter, chairman and director of Associated British Pictures, an associate corporation of Warner Brothers, is being given a luncheon today in the Waldorf-Astoria here, at which he will formally meet Warner home office executives. Max Milder, managing director of Warner Brothers Pictures, Ltd., and of Associated, will introduce Warter.

Attending will be Joseph Hummel, Samuel Schneider, Robert Perkins, Stanleigh P. Friedman, Harold Bareford, Ben Kalmenson, Harry Kalmine, Mort Blumenstock, Samuel Carlisle, Herman Starr, W. S. McDonald, Jack L. Warner, Jr., Karl MacDonald, John J. Glynn, Norman Moray and G. R. Keyser.

M-G-M Sales Executives Map 'State of Union' Openings

HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—L. B. Mayer and E. J. Mannix today attended the first day's session at M-G-M district managers' meeting. "State of the Union" and "Homecoming" were screened today, with the former topping the agenda for the sales staff. Plans for saturation openings of the former while election-year interest is at peak are being mapped. William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, is presiding at the sales parleys.

Feldman Seeks $1,000,000 in Alleged Film 'Piracy' Suit

LOS ANGELES, March 1.—Charles K. Feldman Productions today filed a one-million dollar suit against Norma Productions, Universal, Eagle-Lion, Joan Fontaine and Burt Lancaster for alleged conspiracy to pirate picture rights on "Kiss the Blood Off My Hands."

Cites Pacts in 'Loop' Decree Contempt Bid

CHICAGO, March 1.—Some 500 contracts for product licensed by the Jackson Park Theatre since the decree was handed down here was introduced today by Thomas McConnell, Jackson Park attorney, as further evidence in his bid for contempt citations against the major distributors and theatre circuits. At today's hearing before Judge Michael Igoe, Ed Johnston, Paramount and Balaban and Katz attorney, and Vincent O'Brien, Warner counsel, again denied contempt and made motions for dismissal of the case.

20th-Fox Sets Dividends

The board of directors of 20th Century-Fox has declared a quarterly dividend of 50 cents a share on the common stock and of 37½ cents a share on convertible preferred, both payable on March 31, to stockholders of record on March 10. A quarterly dividend of $1.12½ a share on prior preferred has also been declared, payable March 15 to stockholders of record on March 10.

Herschmann to Filmack

Max Herschmann, veteran film trailer executive, has joined Filmack Trailer Co. as Eastern sales manager, with headquarters at the company's newly opened studio here, it was announced yesterday by Irving Mack, general sales manager.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
RONALD COLMAN
"A DOUBLE LIFE"
SIGNE HASSO - EDMOND O'BRIEN
A Kanin Production
A Universal-International Release
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

LILLI PALMER
SAM WANAMAKER
"My Girl Tisa"
IN PERSON
VAUGHN MONROE
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9:15 A.M. LATE FILM AT MIDNIGHT
LATE STAGE SHOW 10:30 P.M. B'WAY AT 47th

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
starring DICK POWELL - SIGNE HASSO
A COLUMBIA PICTURE
RIVOLI B'way & 49th St.

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD TO RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
10th WEEK BRANDT'S
REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

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Quigley Awards Luncheon



Quigley Publications Photo

Martin Quigley addressing 100 judges and other guests at 15th annual Quigley Showmanship Awards luncheon held yesterday at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here. Others in the photo above are, from left to right: Gus Eyssell, of the Radio City Music Hall; Fred Schwartz, vice-president of Century Theatres, principal speaker at the luncheon; Quigley; Harry Arthur, Fanchon and Marco, St. Louis, and Malcolm Kingsberg, president of RKO Theatres.

Boston Rental Suit Motions Are Filed

BOSTON, March 1.—Both plaintiffs and defendants have acted officially on the findings of special master Philip A. Hendrick in the flat rental and percentage damage actions filed in U. S. District Court here by Loew's and Paramount against Fred E. Lieberman and his corporations.

Loew's and Paramount filed for confirmation by the court of Hendrick's finding that both flat rental and percentage damages, in the case of Loew's, and percentage damages, in the case of Paramount, arising out of a charge concerning percentage returns was suffered by the distributors. Lieberman's attorneys, meanwhile, have filed detailed objections to Hendrick's findings. The court is expected to rule on both motions in about a week.

DuPont Radio Award To Be Made Monday

Sixth annual awards of the Alfred I. DuPont Radio Foundation will be presented next Monday at a dinner at the St. Regis Hotel here. Mark Woods, president of the American Broadcasting Company, will preside, and the presentation will be made by Dr. Francis P. Gaines, president of Washington and Lee University, who is chairman of the awards committee. Among those on the committee with Dr. Gaines is M. H. Aylesworth.

The awards winners, a commentator and two radio stations, will not be announced until the night of the dinner.

FILM SALESMAN WANTED

For Small Company handling specialty pictures to sell directly to theatres throughout Country. Must be willing to travel. Must be top-notch man.

Address: MOTION PICTURE DAILY, BOX 410, Rockefeller Center 20, N. Y.

Quigley Awards

(Continued from page 1)

those days are over." As a remedy for the decline in business he offered "a revitalized conception of showmanship." He advocated "showmanship that births, develops and cements the movie-going habit."

Schwartz said that experiments conducted by his circut had redefined showmanship in terms of community service. "We believe," he asserted, that by performing community services, we are insuring good will and that the good will, apart from being its own reward, creates good business."

Schwartz saw in television "one of the greatest mediums for creating the desire for seeing a picture if trailers were projected into every home having a television set."

Schwartz voiced warm praise for the Quigley Awards, saying "they have tripled in importance—they are a great spur to showmanship."

Others introduced at the luncheon by Quigley were Harry C. Arthur, Jr., head of St. Louis Amusement Co.; his brother, Edward B. Arthur, Jr.; Martin Quigley, Jr., and Harry C. Arthur III.

G. S. Eyssell, managing director of Radio City Music Mall; Malcolm Kingsberg, president of RKO Theatres, and Harry C. Arthur, Jr., were seated on the dais.

Others present, besides members of Quigley Publications, were:

Paul Ackerman, Leon Bamberger, Lige Brien, Samuel Cohen, Jerry Dale, Hal Hanson, George Dembow, Oscar A. Doob, Edward C. Dowden, Steve Edwards, Ernest Emerling, Lynn Farnol, William R. Ferguson, Robert M. Gillham.

Also: Melvin L. Gold, Harry Goldberg, Louis Goldberg, Ben H. Grimm, William J. Heineman, Arthur Jeffrey, George Jenkins, G. R. Keyser, Jock Lawrence, Paul Lazarus, Jr., Hank Linet, Lawrence H. Lipskin, S. Barret McCormick, Harry K. McWilliams, Harry Mandel, Sid Mesibov, Mike Nicholas.

Also: John J. O'Connor, David O'Malley, Montague Salmon, Sidney Schaefer, Arthur Schmidt, Edward Schreiber, William B. Schulman, Mike Segal, Sam Shain, Stanley Shuford, Milton Silver, Sterling Silliphant, J. R. Springer, J. R. Vogel, Ben Washer, Christy Wilbert, Phil A. Williams, Max E. Youngstein, Bill Zeilor and Alfred N. Zimbalist.



CELEBRATING 1ST

OF LONDON

Samuel Goldwyn's

The Best Years

ANNIVERSARY

FIRST RUN!



Opened March 5, 1947, at the Odeon, moved to Marble Arch on July 10, 1947— where it is doing even ***bigger business today than when it opened!***

of Our Lives

RELEASED BY RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

Bevin Says

(*Continued from page* 1)

ent to initiate formal discussions forthwith.

Immediately following the luncheon a preliminary meeting was convened, with Wilson presiding. It was agreed to hold a formal meeting tomorrow morning and an agenda was agreed upon for that meeting, including detailed discussion of a settlement formula.

Both Governments Represented

Present, in addition to those named, were Sir Wilfred Eady, Treasury official; Rupert Somervel, B. of T. Undersecretary; James Mulvey, representing the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers; Joyce O'Hara, assistant to Johnston, and Don Bliss, commercial attache of the American Embassy here.

The likelihood of a settlement is greater now, as the government tacitly admits the *ad valorem* tax not only was a hasty improvisation but also an ineffectual instrument, since American remittances, seven months after imposition of the tax, still are running around $48,000,000 annually. In addition, British production obviously is running down under present conditions, with industry financial interests apprehensive.

Bevin's luncheon today followed the extended conferences which he held last week with Lewis O. Douglas, American Ambassador, and a subsequent lengthy conference between Douglas and Cripps. It is generally assumed here that either the groundwork for a settlement formula or a definite proposal leading to a settlement was developed at those conferences and will be delivered to the meeting here tomorrow for finishing touches.

British government and trade circles continue highly optimistic over the prospects of a settlement of the long-standing stalemate being near at hand. The optimism persists despite the non-committal attitude which Johnston assumed upon his arrival here from New York by plane last Saturday.

Johnston insisted to interviewers that the main reason for his visit here is not "the tax problem but other MPAA business." While saying he would like to see Cripps, Bevin and anyone else who might be of help, he said he had no appointments to meet with government ministers. Protesting that he understands Britain's dollar emergency, Johnston said he has several alternatives to the tax which save dollars yet enable American films to continue to be shown here.

Hits 'Direction' by State

Later, Johnston expressed the view that it is contrary to American ideology and tradition that any industry's direction be mapped by the state. He said it is desirable that motion pictures, like other industries, contrive their own destinies. In other words, Johnston intimated he would like to see a clear cut settlement irrespective of European Recovery Program considerations.

Johnston, in fact, suggested that motion pictures are unsuitable for inclusion in ERP, although that inclusion has been explored here as a possible means of settling the tax problem.

Mulvey said today he is in complete accord with MPAA's position.

Blumberg Meets Johnston

LONDON, March 1.—Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, and Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president and foreign manager, postponed their scheduled visit to Paris at the weekend to meet and confer here with Eric Johnston and his party. In consequence, their departure for New York next Friday may be delayed until a later date.

House Labor Probe

(*Continued from page* 1)

some of the detailed reasons why IATSE charges Communist agitation in the jurisdictional situation.

At the close of the day, however, chances seemed likely for a wind-up this week. Herbert K. Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, is slated to be the last witness following Brewer to the stand tomorrow. When Sorrell finishes, chairman Carroll D. Kearns said, the committee will go into temporary recess. Should any of the persons charged with communism wish to testify, Kearns declared, the hearings will reopen again at an unspecified date.

Brewer told the committee that as soon as he came to Hollywood in 1945 it was apparent to him that Communists were creating a serious problem. He declared that he had found positive proof of Communist domination in the CSU when known Communists in IATSE locals followed the CSU decisions.

"The Miracle of the Bells"

(*Continued from page* 1)

foreign star whose temperament cancels her out of the name role in "Joan of Arc," Valli again meets MacMurray, this time as a studio press agent. The inner light that guides her is something MacMurray gets to understand. Valli takes over the role of Joan through his efforts, delivers a magnificent performance and succumbs to tuberculosis. Lee J. Cobb, the producer, refuses to release the film with an unknown star who is dead.

Fulfilling her dying wish, MacMurray takes Valli's body to her home town and arranges with Father Paul, played by Frank Sinatra, for the service and the burial request in her dying wish. Meanwhile, the love for Valli which he never got around to expressing finds MacMurray determined to have the film released as a testimonial to her faith, courage and ability. As a press agent stunt, he arranges to have the bells in the town's five churches ring unceasingly for three days and three nights. The publicity becomes nationwide, but fails to persuade Cobb to change his mind. However, when the statues near the altar turn so that they face Valli's coffin, the worshippers believe a miracle has been wrought.

ACTUALLY the floor sinks under the weight of the unaccustomed throng. This disturbs the old coal seam on which the foundations of the statues rest. Having investigated, Sinatra knows this and so, too, does MacMurray. But the spiritual lift of the thronged church is so evident, he persuades Sinatra to defer explanation until Church authorities have an opportunity to investigate. The point, however, is that the people already been influenced by the occurrence.

St. Michael's rapidly becomes a shrine on complete public acceptance that a miracle has been performed. On the heels of the attention directed to the incident, Cobb decides to release the film. MacMurray's purpose is achieved, Valli's faith is justified and Coaltown is promised a hospital dedicated to fight the lung disease afflicting so many of its constituents.

Valli, who probably will reach large audiences in this attraction before "The Paradine Case" which she made as her first American film, is excellent throughout and gives further evidence here that she will be a star of perhaps considerable renown. MacMurray probably has never had a better part, or has performed better. Sinatra, in an entirely new kind of characterization, is a pleasant surprise in a role which is secondary to the other two.

COBB, as the Hollywood producer of honorable and decent principle, is first-class. Other members of the small cast, including Harold Vermilyea, Charles Meredith, Veronica Pataky, Philip Ahn, Jim Nolan, Frank Ferguson and Frank Wilcox, are blended with accuracy under intelligent and warm direction provided throughout by Irving Pichel. The kudos would not be complete without recognition of the well-knit script by Ben Hecht and Quentin Reynolds. Jesse L. Lasky and Walter MacEwen produced jointly.

Running time, 126 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, April.

RED KANN

Gross To Aid Schary

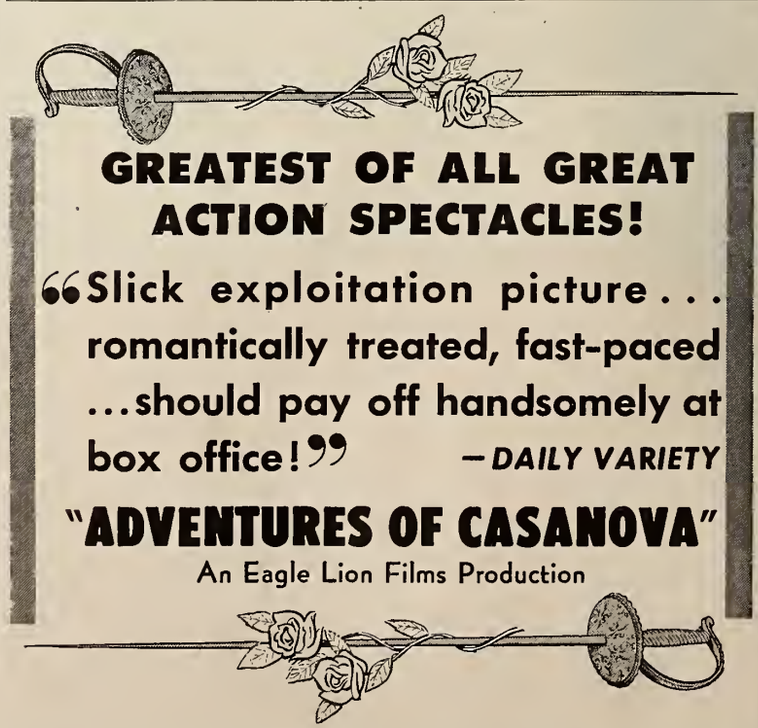
HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—Jack J. Gross, an RKO Radio executive producer, has been appointed assistant to Dore Schary in charge of pre-filming analysis as a member of Schary's five-man production cabinet.

Form Midwest Prod.

HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—Daniel E. Field has organized Midwest Productions and already has completed the script of "The Student Nurse." Contemplated as a second film is "Make Mine Romance."







DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

63. NO. 42 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1948 TEN CENTS

Theatres Want Trailers with That New Look

Suggest Many Changes; Duck British Accents

A 15-point program for the improvement of trailer standards has been presented to the industry by a trailer committee representing a cross-section of the nation's exhibition business.

The program is based on a list of recommendations contained in a report prepared by the committee following a meeting at the Hotel Astor here on Feb. 12, at which 2,460 of the country's theatres with affiliated and non-affiliated circuits, as well as independents, were represented.

The program calls for shorter trailers, the creation of a special short trailer for multiple-change houses, the arousing of immediate interest, the reduction of superlatives, the minimizing of stereotyped material and feeling of sameness, the use of music setting a mood and possessing continuity,

(*Continued on page 7*)

'Red' Issue Must Be 'Forced,' Levy Says

WASHINGTON, March 2.—IATSE counsel Matthew Levy declared today that the producers know all about Communist activities in the studios, but won't do anything about them until they are "pointed up."

"In my judgment," Levy told the House Labor sub-committee, now in its 11th day of investigating Hollywood jurisdictional strikes, "the producers knew as much as the Un-American

(*Continued on page 6*)

MPF Trustees' Meet Postponed to April

The second Motion Picture Foundation trustees meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held in New York on March 16-18, will be held instead in April with a definite date yet to be set, E. V. Richards, Jr., MPF president, announced through Foundation headquarters here yesterday.

Reason for the change, Richards

(*Continued on page 6*)

Judge Flays Para. Aide's 'Disregard' Of 'Loop' Decree

CHICAGO, March 2.—Judge Michael Igoe of U. S. District Court, here, today upbraided Ed Johnston, Paramount and Balaban and Katz attorney, for disregarding the Jackson Park decree and for "a contemptuous attitude toward the court." The remarks were made during Johnston's cross-examination of Jim Donahue, Paramount regional division manager, at the hearing for contempt citations against the major distributors and theatre circuits.

"The more I hear of this case, the more I believe how shocking it is that a member of the bar should go ahead and make his own interpretations of a decree," Judge Igoe declared. He was referring to Paramount's imposed clearance on "Unconquered," "Where There's Life" and "Golden Earrings."

After indicating that Johnston should have consulted him about the clearance provisions of the decree, the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Mulvey Will Head Brooklyn Drive

Right Rev. Monsignor J. Jerome Reddy, on behalf of Bishop Thomas E. Molloy of the Brooklyn and Long Island diocese, yesterday disclosed that James A. Mulvey, president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions, had accepted the chairmanship of the amusement division of the Catholic Charities Drive for Brooklyn and Long Island. Others named on the committee were: Edward C. Dowden, and

(*Continued on page 7*)

SETTLEMENT OF UK TAX MOVES AHEAD

Says MGM Trailers Agitate Against Tax

London, March 2.—A Socialist in the House of Commons today charged that M-G-M's trailers on new features banned by the American embargo are intended to agitate for a change in Britain's fiscal policy in its relation to the *ad valorem* tax. The MP suggested that the government forbid them.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps replied that he is uncertain whether the trailers agitate for removal of the levy, but in any event he is sure the public understands Britain cannot afford to spend dollars on films at this time.

'Full Dress' Meeting Held Formula Goes to Committee for Drafting

LONDON, March 2.—Breaking of the deadlock caused by enactment of Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax progressed with the holding of a "full dress" meeting of government-industry representatives at the House of Commons today.

It was the first full-scale effort by properly accredited officials to settle the dispute that has raged over the tax since it became effective seven months ago. It was, in fact, the first meeting of the real principals since the problem arose.

At its conclusion, an Anglo-American committee of "experts" was designated to perfect a settlement formula along suggested lines.

American members of the committee are: F. W. Allport, European representative of the Motion Picture Association of America; Allen Dulles, MPAA adviser on foreign affairs, and James Mulvey of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers. British members are: Sir Wilfred Eady, Treasury official; Rupert Somervel, Undersecretary of the Board

(*Continued on page 7*)

UA Board Approves Five Producer Deals

Five deals with producers were approved here yesterday by the United Artists board of directors.

Leading the list was an arrangement with Mary Pickford and Lester Cowan for six pictures to be made by the pair in England with all-American casts, the first being a Marx Brothers item.

Involved in the other deals passed upon by the directors are: "An Inno-

(*Continued on page 7*)

$1,500,000 Advance To Korda on Three

LONDON, March 2. — Alexander Korda, head of London films, declared on his return here from a trip to New York and Hollywood, that he will receive a $1,500,000 advance payment against the American earnings of his new films "Anna Karenina," "Mine Own Executioner" and "An Ideal Husband." The three are being re-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Film Center Building Here Bought by Reade Enterprises

NY Operators Reject Pact; Strike Looms

IATSE Projectionists' Local No. 306 has voted to reject a contract negotiated two months ago with six leading New York theatre circuits here, according to Herman Gelber, president of the local. Action by the members has renewed the threat of a strike against 120 theatres in the metropolitan area.

With the signing of contracts yesterday for purchase of the stock of the Film Center Building Corp. here, Walter Reade, Jr., Enterprises became owners of the 13-story Film Center building on Ninth Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets. Stock sale was made subject to a mortgage of about $1,700,000, with Margolin, Feldman and Blinkoff representing Reade.

The buyers immediately assigned the contract to a syndicate represented by Judd and Garfein, attorneys.

Eagle-Lion Weighing Film Block-Booking

Eagle-Lion, which has been selling its pictures singly, will adopt block-booking if the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the industry anti-trust suit does not outlaw the practice, William J. Heineman, distribution vice-president, said at a press interview here

(*Continued on page 7*)

Personal Mention

JOSEPH HUMMEL, Warner general manager for Continental Europe, and C. J. VAN NEIL, Eastman Kodak comptroller, are among passengers slated to sail from New York today for England on the *SS America.*

•

GEORGE ARCHIBALD, managing director of Independent Producers, Ltd., and J. Arthur Rank Organization executive, MRS. ARCHIBALD, and COMPTON BENNETT, director, are among passengers who will arrive in New York today on the *SS Queen Mary* from England.

•

TRACY BARHAM, vice-president and general manager of Intermountain Theatres, Salt Lake City, has resigned as senior coordinator of Utah's drive in the American Overseas Aid and United Nations Appeal for Children.

•

JOHN M. WHITTAKER, RKO vice-president, and WILLIAM FADIMAN, production aide, will leave the Coast Friday for New York.

•

PAUL HOLLISTER, RKO Radio national director of publicity, has returned to the home office following three weeks in Hollywood.

•

E. L. McEVOY, Universal-International short subject sales manager, has left New York for Charlotte and Atlanta.

•

FRED G. SLITER, 20th Century-Fox salesman in Albany, N. Y., is vacationing at Hot Springs National Park, Ark. .

•

HENRY L. NATHANSON, president of M-G-M Films of Canada, and MRS. NATHANSON have returned to Toronto from Hollywood.

•

ROBERT S. TAPLINGER, Enterprise advertising-publicity chief, has returned to New York from a vacation in Nassau.

•

MAX WEINBERG, M-G-M Eastern short subjects representative, is in Chicago from New York.

•

CECIL BARKER, assistant to DAVID O. SELZNICK, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

C. J. LATTA, Albany, N. Y., zone manager for Warner, is in town for a few days.

Bergher to Brazil, Szekler Back to US

Michael Bergher, Universal-International Far Eastern supervisor until recently, has been appointed managing director in Brazil, succeeding Al Szekler, who has managed the company's activities in that country since 1932. Szekler will return to the home office here.

News Briefs . . .

Paramount Party to Leave on Sunday for Studio Talks

A Paramount home office group is scheduled to fly to the Coast from New York on Sunday to take part in studio conferences and view forthcoming product.

The group will include Paul Raibourn, Ben Washer, Stanley Shuford, Sid Mesibov and Paul Ackerman. Accompanying them will be Rudy Montgelas of the Buchanan advertising agency.

Hollywood Charity Drive Nets $1,312,190 for 193 Organizations

HOLLYWOOD, March 2. — The Permanent Charities Committee allocated $1,312,190 to 193 charitable agencies as a result of Hollywood's third annual united appeal. Included among the funds were the amounts refused last year by the American Red Cross and National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Three Per-Cent Admission Tax Passed by Eugene, Oregon

EUGENE, Ore., March 2.—The City Council here has passed a three per cent admission tax on amusements.

Ted Gamble, president of Theatre Owners of America, and an exhibitor, will seek to have the tax nullified by the courts. Objection is based on the claim that it is discrimination against theatres and does not apply to other businesses.

HARTFORD, March 2. — The state sales and use tax will be reduced from three per cent to one per cent, effective April 1. The Legislature has already approved the change.

William Shields Named SRO Manager in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, March 2.—William Shields, for a number of years a salesman for RKO Radio, has been appointed local manager for Selznick Releasing Organization.

Cresswell Named Manager

Norris Cresswell has been named manager of Selected Pictures in Denver, succeeding Tom McCormich, who has retired from distribution to enter exhibition in Illinois, according to R. M. (Bob) Savini, president of Astor Pictures. Selected is one of five Western offices handling Astor product.

Joins WB Studio Publicity Staff

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—Milt Harker, who resigned last week after 11 years as Los Angeles bureau manager for International News Service, has joined the Warner studio publicity staff.

Schoenstadts Join Ill. Allied

CHICAGO, March 2. — H. Schoenstadt and Sons, owners of 17 theatres in the Chicago area, have joined Allied Theatres of Illinois, according to Jack Kirsch, president of Illinois Allied.

Cinecolor Cuts Price ½c Per Foot on 35mm.

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—In letters to its customers, Cinecolor today announced a one-half cent reduction in the per-foot price of 35mm. release prints.

M. P. Associates Plan to Include Women as Members

Under a recommended change in the Motion Picture Associates' constitution, women would be invited to join the organization, which has had a membership of industry men exclusively since it was set up here in 1919. The change will go before the associates' board on March 24. The organization has launched a drive to double its present membership of 450.

Moe Sanders and Myron Seigel have been named by Arthur Mayer, associates' president, to handle arrangements for the annual dinner-dance to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on May 21.

Coast NLRB Dismisses "Unfair" Practices Charged to 'IA'

HOLLYWOOD, March 2.—National Labor Relations Board regional director Howard LeBaron today dismissed 15 charges of unfair labor practices filed by individual workers against the IATSE in connection with the studio jurisdictional dispute. Insufficient evidence was cited by LeBaron in his action.

Ziv Acquires 76 Features Television Station Rental

Ziv Television has acquired television rights to 76 features from various producers. John L. Sinn, president of the new company, said the features are apart from the General Film library, recently purchased by Ziv for a reputed $240,000.

The films are available to television stations on a lease basis.

Skouras Organizing Drive Unit

Spyros P. Skouras yesterday named Harry Brandt chairman of public relations and special events for the New York campaign of the American Overseas Aid and United Nations Appeal for Children. The program provides for a children's parade in this city on April 12, to be followed by a Madison Square Garden show on May 15 to point up the importance of aid to the world's needy children.

$15,000 in "Dimes" Collections

CLEVELAND, March 2. — Cuyahoga County March of Dimes Committee has been presented with $15,000 from independent theatre collections here. The check was presented by Ernest Schwartz as president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitor Association.

Eagle-Lion Adds 2 Reissues

Reissues of "Seven Sinners" and "Sutter's Gold" are additions to Eagle-Lion's 1947-1948 release schedule.

Newsreel Parade

HAPPENINGS in Czechoslovakia, Greece and Tokyo occupy newsreel highlights in current issues. Sports, fashions and human interest items round out the reels. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 18—President Truman visits Cuba. U. S. returns bed sheets to Bastogne. Parisian school children feast on U. S. food. Tokyo police raid black market. Navy displays new jet-fighter. Premiere of "Call Northside 777." Horse-racing at Hialeah. Boxing, skiing. Barbara Ann Scott in Paris.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 252—Japan battles black market. Teachers' strike closes school. Easter preview in Dixie. President Truman ends tour. New jet-plane. Paris acclaims Barbara Ann Scott. Turf classic. Muscle-men on parade.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 55—Turf classic. Greek army traps rebels at frontier. Col. John Hanlon remembers promise: bedsheets used in war for camouflage returned to Belgium town. First pictures from Czechoslovakia.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 122—Tokyo police raid black market. Mrs. Taft interviewed by Washington press. Easter millinery. Santa Anita handicap.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 57—Champs in the news. Czechoslovakian-Red revolution. Motorcyclists in endurance tests. Potatoes exchanged for fur coat. Santa Anita handicap.

Senate Passes Bill Easing Child Ban

ALBANY, N. Y., March 2.—The bill extending to "towns" the right to admit unattended children to film houses where a matron is on duty has been passed by the N. Y. State Senate and sent to the Assembly.

The measure, sponsored by Senator William S. Hults, Jr., and Genesta M. Strong, member of the Assembly, both Long Island Republicans, will benefit scores of theatres, principally independents, led by the Skouras and Century circuits in the Metropolitan New York territory.

At present authority to show pictures to unescorted children when a matron is present, is limited to cities and villages. Children covered by the bill are from eight to 16, and films must be licensed by the State Education Department. Children cannot attend during hours when their school classes are being held or after six P.M.

Finston Sees Video Producing Changes

Television is going to make many changes and bring back "live" entertainment to theatres, Nathaniel Finston, co-producer with Barney Glazer of Allied Artists' "Song of My Heart," predicted here yesterday at a press reception at the Warwick Hotel. He asserted in Hollywood, "they are doing nothing, just waiting to see what happens."

Finston's independent producing unit, Symphony Films, now has three pictures in preparation, on the lives of Stephen Foster, Rossini and Liszt-Wagner, in combination.

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THE DICKEY BIRD TELLS YOU WHY "THREE DARING DAUGHTERS" IS FOR YOU!

"It's terrific at Capitol, N. Y., second best in 12 months—topped only by 'Hucksters.' It's doing great in all openings, too! Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, New Orleans, Toledo rate with top M-G-M hits of the year!"

★

"It's something absolutely new, novel and different in screen musicals. Not in many years an entertainment so sparkling with charm, excitement and melody!"

★

"Technicolor at its best . . . revealing the lavishness aboard a luxury liner . . . the spectacle of exciting night club life . . . the exciting escapades of three mischievous daughters who try to block the romance of their beautiful, young, flirtatious, divorcee mother."

★

"A cast with unusual appeal. A New JEANETTE MacDONALD in better voice than ever. JOSE ITURBI in a real-life role, wait till you hear his boogie-woogie. JANE POWELL, rising young movie star, of radio and record fame . . . and many more."

★

"Bubbling with songs—12 to be exact and including the newest hit of the airwaves—The Dickey Bird Song. That's me folks!"

★



M-G-M's TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL!

"THREE DARING DAUGHTERS"

Starring

JEANETTE MacDONALD · JOSE ITURBI

JANE POWELL

with

Edward ARNOLD · Harry DAVENPORT

Color by TECHNICOLOR

Original Screen Play by Albert Mannheimer, Frederick Kohner, Sonya Levien, John Meehan

Directed by FRED M. WILCOX · Produced by JOE PASTERNAK

A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE

"Jimmy Fidler gave it top rating on his nationwide broadcast!"



Congratulations TO THESE UNIVERSA

for the Best Motion Picture of the Year:
J. Arthur Rank's **"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"**

•

for the Best Performance by an Actor:
RONALD COLMAN in "A DOUBLE LIFE" A Kanin Production

•

for the Best Performance by an Actress:
SUSAN HAYWARD in Walter Wanger's "SMASH-UP"

•

for the Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role:
THOMAS GOMEZ in "RIDE THE PINK HORSE"

•

for the Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role:
MARJORIE MAIN in "THE EGG AND I"

•

for the Best Achievement in Directing:
GEORGE CUKOR for "A DOUBLE LIFE"
DAVID LEAN for "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

•

for the Best Original Screenplay:
RUTH GORDON and **GARSON KANIN**
for "A DOUBLE LIFE"

•

for the Best Original Motion Picture Story:
DOROTHY PARKER and **FRANK CAVETT** for "SMASH-UP"

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEES

Best Written Screenplay:
DAVID LEAN, RONALD NEAME, and
ANTHONY HAVELOCK-ALLEN for "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

•

Best Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture:
DR. MIKLOS ROZSA for "A DOUBLE LIFE"

•

for Best Achievements in Film Editing:
FERGUS McDONNELL for J. Arthur Rank's "ODD MAN OUT"

•

for Best Achievements in Cinematography (Black-and-White films):
GUY GREEN for "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

•

for Best Achievements in Cinematography (Color films):
JACK CARDIFF for J. Arthur Rank's "BLACK NARCISSUS"

•

Best Achievements in Art Direction (Black-and-White films):
JOHN BRYAN for "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

•

Best Achievements in Art Direction (Color films):
ALFRED JUNGE for "BLACK NARCISSUS"

•

Best Achievements in Short Subjects (One-Reel):
Thomas Mead's **"BROOKLYN, U.S.A."**

•

Best Achievements in Short Subjects (Two-Reels):
Thomas Mead's **"FIGHT OF THE WILD STALLIONS"**

Universal International

N. Y. First Runs Hit Normal Level Again

Broadway first-run business has settled back to normal this week following last week's flourish of high prosperity. In general grosses are good, with hold-overs prevailing at all but one key situation.

"Albuquerque," the sole newcomer, bowed in big at the Victoria where a first week is expected to result in an impressive $28,000; final three days of "The Burning Cross" gave the house only $2,700.

$129,000 for 'Double Life'

Outstanding among hold-overs is "A Double Life" which, along with Russell Markert's stage show, is heading for a very big $129,000 in a second week at Radio City Music Hall. "Road to Rio," plus Louis Prima's band on stage, is also very firm, at the Paramount, where a solid $105,000 is seen for a second week. At the Roxy, "Call Northside 777," with Hazel Scott heading a stage bill, drew $76,000 for the first five days of a second week which is expected to wind up with a good $91,000. Although still strong at the Capitol, "Three Daring Daughters," plus Horace Heidt's band on stage, will make way for "The Naked City" tomorrow after an anticipated $69,000 in a second week.

New York's three long-runners continue to hold up, with the following expectations: "Body and Soul," Globe, 17th week, $16,000; "Gentleman's Agreement," Mayfair, 16th week, $26,000; "The Bishop's Wife," Astor, 12th week, $31,000.

Also performing satisfactorily: "My Girl Tisa," at the Strand, for a second week, $56,000; "If You Knew Susie," Palace, second week, $25,000; "The Pearl," Sutton, second week, $11,000; "Furia," Rialto, sixth week, $9,000.

New Films at 3 Houses

Grossing unimpressively are: "Killer McCoy," Loew's State, third and final week, $15,500; "To the Ends of the Earth," Rivoli, third week, $22,600; "Sleep, My Love," Criterion, second week, $16,000; "A Miracle Can Happen," Warner, fourth week, $10,000; "Holiday Camp," Park Avenue, sixth and final week, $5,000; "Jassy," Winter Garden, final six days of a second and final week, $15,000.

Opening this week: "Black Bart," Winter Garden, today; "The Sign of the Ram," Loew's State, today; "Relentless," Criterion, Saturday; "Song of My Heart," Park Avenue, tomorrow.

Legion Classifies 12 Additional Features

Five of 12 additional pictures reviewed by the National Legion of Decency have been classified A-I; they are: "Fort Apache" and "The Miracle of the Bells," both RKO Radio; "Speed to Spare," Paramount; "Tornado Range," Eagle-Lion, and "Schwarz auf Weiss" (German), Wien Films. Rated A-II were: "Mr. Reckless," Paramount; "Panhandle," Monogram; "Piccadilly Incident," M-G-M; "Sitting Pretty," 20th Century-Fox.

Placed in Class B were: "All My Sons," Universal-International; "Man of Evil," United Artists, and "Umwege Zu Dir (German), Wien Films.

Reviews

"Scudda-Hoo! Scudda-Hay!"

(20th Century-Fox)

THE story of a country lad with a love for two mules has been embellished into an outdoor Technicolor drama of standard proportions. Its performance at the box-office can, in some measure, be determined by the performances in given situations of such predecessors as "Smoky," "Home in Indiana" and "My Friend Flicka." Lon McCallister is featured as the lad who, with June Haver as a sprightly farmer's daughter, provide the romantic angles. Others in the cast are Natalie Wood, as Miss Haver's precocious, gadabouting kid sister who knows all the answers, and Walter Brennan and Anne Revere.

Taken from the George A. Chamberlain novel, the film's exploitable title, "Scudda-Hoo! Scudda-Hay!" is a rallying cry for working mules. The tale itself ambles along in a pleasing way, at times reaching pitches, but generally, the development is along predictable lines. Complications start for McCallister when he buys two mules from his employer and decides to work off the debt by putting in a year as a farm hand. In the meantime McCallister is harassed by a step-mother and step-brother who are constantly at odds with him. The feud between the step-brothers reaches a high-point when an attempt is made to get the mules away from McCallister. This having failed, an attempt is made to injure them. Despite initial obstacles, romantic and otherwise, it all turns out happily for McCallister, when, in a crisis, the mules prove their worth, paving the pay for marriage with Miss Haver. F. Hugh Herbert did the screenplay and also directed. Walter Morosco produced.

Running time, 95 minutes. General audience classification. Set for April release.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"Mr. Reckless"

(Paramount-Pine-Thomas)

NEVER wanting for action, "Mr. Reckless" is just that when it comes to excitement. It crowds a lot of attention-getting elements into its limited footage, as is to be expected of most of the Pine-Thomas product, with romance, melodrama and humor all mixed together to suit the preferences of film patrons to whose tastes the P-T productions cater.

The picture races from scene to scene of a story which, while pretty familiar, still possesses holding power and rarely fails to generate interest enough for boxoffice purposes.

The picture gains a further advantage on the strength of a cast with several names that mean something to customers. The stars are William Eythe and Barbara Britton. Eythe is an oil-field hand who returns to his old haunts after a long absence to find Miss. Britton, whom he loves, about to be married to Nestor Paiva, an accented restaurant owner much older than herself. Eythe and Miss Britton try to keep their true feelings at bay for the sake of Paiva, a pal of the former. When the truth finally emerges, Paiva assaults Eythe in a jealous rage, with tragic consequences for himself. Paiva's death leaves the lovers free to face life together.

The comedy burden is borne by Walter Catlett and Lloyd Corrigan. Minna Gombell is also very much in evidence.

Frank McDonald directed from a screenplay by Maxwell Shane and Milton Raison.

Running time, 66 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 26.

P.E.L.

"Tornado Range"

(PRC—Eagle-Lion)

SINGING cowboy Eddie Dean is in especially fine voice in this latest PRC offering from the producer-director team of Jerry Thomas and Ray Taylor. With instrumental accompaniment provided by Andy Parker and the Plainsmen, Dean renders dulcetly two outdoor ballads: "Song of the Range," which he himself composed, and "Little Ranch Upon the Hill," by Curt and Alan Massey.

In other departments—story, acting and photography—"Tornado Range" is right in the routine Western groove, with the usual gun-fights, hard riding and rough-and-tumble business demanded by the customers of this type of film entertainment. The plot of William Lively's screenplay is the old one about feuding cattlemen and homesteaders and how a band of rustlers cast the blame for their own predatory activities on the homesteaders. Things go well for the rustlers until Dean and his sidekick, Roscoe Ates, bring peace and harmony to the range. Others in the cast are Jennifer Holt, George Chesebro, Brad Slaven, Marshall Reed and Steve Clark.

Running time, 56 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 21.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

UA-Hawks Hearing

United Artists' suit for an order to compel Howard Hawks and his Monterey Pictures to deliver "Red River" to it, will have a hearing today before the American Arbitration Association here. Abraham Beanstock will be arbitrator for UA and Charles Abramson for Hawks, with William Zimmerman, RKO executive, as impartial arbitrator.

MPF Trustees' Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

said, is due to the holding of the Theatre Owners of America board-and-officers meeting in Los Angeles on March 9-10, it having been decided to let several weeks elapse between the two meetings since a number of TOA officers are also MPF trustees and officers.

US Reports Banner Year for Mexico

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The Mexican film industry is looking forward to a banner year, according to a U. S. Commerce Department report. The study, prepared by motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden, lists three reasons for the optimistic outlook: better facilities have been installed for producing and for making prints; an increase in the number of theatres; and a two-year film labor truce.

Most U. S. and other film companies made greater profits last year than during 1946, the report says.

'IA' Winter Meeting Opens in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, March 2.—Mid-winter meeting of the IATSE got under way yesterday at the William Penn Hotel here, with a jam-packed agenda awaiting decision by the close of the convention on Saturday. Almost 50 officers and delegates were on hand when president Richard F. Walsh opened the first session, which was devoted to routing of motions to committees.

Only "minor" business, such as review of committee reports, was accomplished at today's session, according to Walsh. "It is hardly possible that any business will be transacted that can be given out for publication," he added.

'Red Issue'

(*Continued from page* 1)

Activities Committee did but they wouldn't act until the committee pointed it up for them."

Levy and IATSE international representative Roy Brewer were the only witnesses to appear today. The hearings are expected to conclude tomorrow or Thursday with testimony from Conference of Studio Unions leader Herbert K. Sorrell.

After listening to Levy's week-long fight to prove that Communist elements are responsible for at least 50 per cent of the jurisdictional strike in Hollywood, Congressman Owens still insisted today that the "big question" in the jurisdictional situation was why top American Federation of Labor leaders had not prohibited a strike until the jurisdictional question was settled among themselves. Chairman Kearns insisted that he needed "proof before the committee could get to work" on corrective legislation.

Brewer told the committee that as far as the unions were concerned the Communist situation was well under control at present, and that if the committee had not agreed to hear evidence at the current hearing on Communist activity in the jurisdictional situation, "it would have given tremendous encouragement to them to do the same thing all over again."

1,184 Loew and RKO Workers Get Raises

Wage increases ranging from $5 to $12 have been awarded to 600 of Loew's Eastern unit of the Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, while 584 of the RKO Radio unit won increases of from $5 to $10, under arbitration decisions by the American Arbitration Association. Increases are retroactive to last Sept. 27.

The 1,184 workers affected are predominantly of home offices.

U. K. Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

of Trade, and Andrew White, who is responsible for details of the British film quota bills.

This working committee went into action immediately today and will resume its deliberations tonight and tomorrow.

A definitive statement on the situation is expected from the Government here on Thursday.

Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, presided at the "full dress" meeting at the House of Commons earlier today. Present, in addition to those who were selected for the working committee, were: Eric Johnston, MPAA president; Joyce O'Hara, his executive assistant; Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps; Sir John Henry Wood, Foreign Office official, and Don Bliss, commercial attache of the American Embassy.

Johnston and Wilson dined together tonight.

Johnston's Attitude Changes

Perhaps indicative of the progress being made and of the chances of an agreement being reached was the noticeable change in Johnston's attitude toward the discussions today. On his arrival here he denied that the setlement talks were the major reason for his visit, openly expressed doubt that anything would materialize and described himself as "not very optimistic—quite the contrary."

Today he met managing directors here of all American companies and, among other things, told them: "Pessimism leads nowhere."

The MPAA chief was anxious to emphasize that he had found "extreme friendliness" and "a sincere desire to find a formula to end the deadlock."

Dictating his attitude, he said, is his wish to help preserve Anglo-American political harmony.

'We Can Go Anywhere'

Endeavoring to restrain all newspaper "guesses" concerning developments, Johnston declared: "With the government's present good will, we can go anywhere."

Core of the settlement problem appears to be that Britain is able to remit in 1948 only $16,000,000 in film rentals.

Mulvey Heads Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

John Murphy of Loew's; Charles McDonald, RKO; Samuel Rinzler, Randforce Circuit; Fred Schwartz of Century, and Walter F. J. Higgins of Prudential Theatres.

John J. O'Connor of Universal-International, and Bert Sanford of Altec Service, are chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the Catholic Charities drive in the Archdiocese of New York.

Five Coast Houses in Deal

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2.—Retention of all personnel in the five houses recently acquired in Pittsburg and Concord, Cal., by Blumenfeld Theatres, was announced by Bill Crosby, managing director of the five houses. Theatres, which were acquired from Salvador Enea on a 20-year lease, include the new Vogue, the Enean, Palace and California in Pittsburg, and the Enean in Concord.

Review

"The Westward Trail"

(*PRC-Eagle Lion*)

"THE WESTWARD TRAIL" ranks with the less effective Eddie Dean "horse-operas," although it is by no means the poorest. Acting and direction are somewhat below par for the series and convey the impression that the film was turned out in record speed. It contains a goodly quota of action, however, and devotees of the genre who demand plenty of gun-slinging and horseback chases should find it satisfactory.

Dean plays a U. S. marshal incognito. Together with his pal, Roscoe Ates, he is bent on destroying the land-grabbing schemes of a band of desperadoes. Dean's opportunity to go into action comes when blonde Phyllis Planchard and her strong-headed brother, Steve Drake, arrive from Chicago to live at a ranch which she had purchased. The crooks start to swindle her out of her land and would have succeeded were it not for the efforts of Dean and Ates. Before the heavies are entirely routed Dean sings a few Western ballads. Others in the cast are Bob Duncan, Carl Mathews, Eileene Hardin, Lee Morgan and Bob Woodward. Jerry Thomas produced and Ray Taylor directed, from a screenplay by Robert Alan Miller.

Running time, 58 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 13. C. L. F.

Eagle-Lion Considers

(*Continued from page* 1)

yesterday. The company is not a party to the industry trust suit.

Heineman said the company has been particularly anxious to release its lower budget films in blocks, but has chosen to wait until the anti-trust suit is settled.

Meanwhile, he disclosed, the company has set a minimum goal of 12,000 domestic bookings on every E-L release, except those which are British-made. The goal for the latter is about 10,000, Heineman added, admitting it to be a high mark to shoot for. To aid in the attainment of its booking goal for domestic product, he said, E-L has set in motion through its exchanges a poll of the nation's exhibitors to determine what kind of product their experience has proven to be the best box-office performers. E-L, Heineman said, now averages between 8,500 and 9,000 bookings on domestic product, and considerably less on British.

Heineman said the company "hasn't done a good job" thus far in selling British films here but expects better results. He disclosed that the company has no unreleased product left in British vaults, all of its films that had been shipped to England prior to the imposition of the *ad valorem* tax having been released.

Judge Igoe Flays

(*Continued from page* 1)

judge asserted: "It seems from what I have heard thus far in this case, you have taken an absolute disregard of the decree and what appears to be a contemptuous attitude toward the court. A situation has never before been duplicated in this area like this case, where counsels would go ahead and make their own interpretations of a decree."

In replying to Judge Igoe, Johnston said: "We might not be right but we think we are right. What I did, I did honestly and in perfect good faith. We felt we had a right to grant clearance so long as it was done on a picture-to-picture basis and not on a uniform basis." Variations of clearance, he added, were permissible depending upon a picture's merit.

James Coston, Warner Brothers Circuit Management head, took the stand today to deny that he made the statement that he would not play Eagle-Lion's "Lost Honeymoon" at the Avalon and Capitol theatres if the Jackson Park played it first.

Trailers

(*Continued from page* 1)

care against revealing too much of the plot or too many of the best gags, the elimination of critics' comments, no publicity for directors, avoidance of use of costumes wherever possible, employment of American voices in the commentary of trailers for British pictures, caution in the preparation of trailers for pictures dealing with controversial subjects, and the omission of company advertising, with tie-in limited to one picture.

As for a manager's endorsement, the suggestion is made that if it is to have any weight at all in a town it "should be built up like his reputation and should not be used too often or too loosely."

Finally, it is recommended that a trailer be "a custom-built ticket-selling medium."

Copies of the list of recommendations have been sent to the presidents of all the important production and distribution companies, various top distribution personnel of these companies, leading studio men, chief advertising men, and a wide representative group of exhibitors, including all of the affiliated theatre operations of the five majors, heads of all important unaffiliated theatre circuits and all exhibitors who assisted in the preparation of the report.

Members of the committee which compiled the report included Edward L. Hyman, Paramount Pictures Theatre Service Corp., chairman; Earl Hudson, United Detroit Theatres; Charles Winchell, Minnesota Amusement Co.; Dick Kennedy, Wilby-Kincey circuit; Bill Hollander, Balaban and Katz; Leon Netter and Robert Weitman of Paramount, as well as independent theatre operators representing more than 350 theatres from the New York area.

Advance to Korda

(*Continued from page* 1)

leased in the U. S. by 20th Century-Fox.

Korda claims this is the highest single payment to be made to a British producer for American exhibitions. The money will be paid to the British Treasury.

"Mine Own Executioner" will be shown on Broadway shortly after Easter, while "Ideal Husband" and "Anna Karenina" will be given a general American release in a few weeks.

Asks for Renewal of Trade Agreements

WASHINGTON, March 2. — A bang-up political row looms over extension of the Administration's authority to enter into reciprocal trade agreements, now that President Truman has asked Congress for a three-year renewal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, through June 12, 1951. This authority expires on June 30.

Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee, which must pass on the legislation, are disposed to kill the authority entirely. This is an extremely hot political potato in an election year, and some Republican Congressional leaders are urging a simple one-year extension to take the matter over into 1949, which is not an election year. Ways and Means Committee Chairman Knutson, however, is reported to be fighting even this short extension.

Motion Picture Association of America president Eric Johnston has testified several times before Congressional groups in support of the reciprocal trade agreement program.

The President in his message to Congress said renewal of the Act was necessary not only for the Administration to negotiate trade agreements but also to carry out the Geneva Conference agreements and the International Trade Organization.

UA Board Approves

(*Continued from page* 1)

cent Affair," which James Nasser will produce; "A Man Scans His Past," an Elie Rothschild picture, to be produced by Leopold Schlossberg in Canada in English and French versions; Dink Templeton's Technicolor production of "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come," and "Confessions of a Communist," an A. Edward Sutherland film based on material supplied by William J. Donovan.

UA has invested in the production of "An Innocent Affair" to the tune of $150,000, representing a quarter interest.

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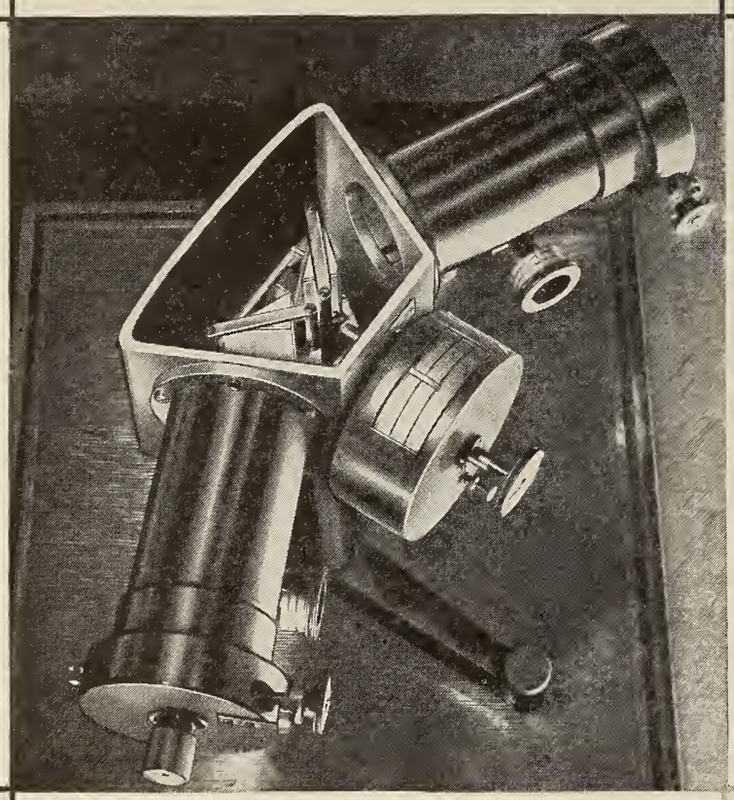
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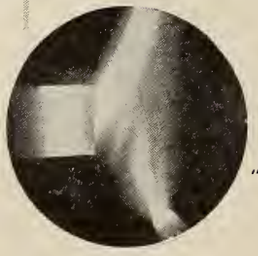
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Ament Is Reels' Spokesman in Security Drive

Named to Committee Set Up at Capital Meeting

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Walton C. Ament, vice-president and general manager of Warner Pathe News, will represent the newsreels on a special committee of information media representatives set up today to figure out how best to answer a Government plea to safeguard information vital to national security.

The group is a sub-committee of a gathering of some 25 information media officials who met at the Pentagon Building today at Secretary of Defense Forrestals' request. Ament, who represented all of the reels today, said the meeting was "generally sympathetic" to the Government's plea, and agreed to the need for some protection

(*Continued on page 4*)

Sorrell Denies He Is a Communist

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Herbert K. Sorrell, head of the Conference of Studio Unions, today flatly denied under oath that he is or has ever been a member of the Communist Party.

At the same time he launched a counter-offensive against IATSE charges of Communist membership by telling the Kearns House Labor Sub-Committee that a "conspiracy" between the IATSE and film producers began in 1934 or 1935 when Loew's Nicholas M. Schenck and Paramount's Barney Balaban "made a deal" with George Browne, then international president of the IATSE, giving "IA" a closed shop and wage increases.

Sorrell took the stand this morning

(*Continued on page 4*)

Approve $200,000 For Thomas Group

WASHINGTON, March 3. — The House Administration Committee today recommended that the Thomas House Un-American Activities Committee receive $200,000 to carry on its activities during the balance of the year. This sum, which still must be approved by the full House, is double the 1947 appropriation, and would be the largest the committee has ever received.

Balaban Testifies at Jackson Pk. Hearing

CHICAGO, March 3.—John Balaban, chief executive of Balaban and Katz, was called to the witness stand today in the seventh day of hearings in the Jackson Park Theatre contempt citation in U. S. District court here. Cross-examined by Thomas McConnell, platintiff's attorney and Ed Johnston representing Paramount and B. and K., Balaban said he had a meeting last Nov. 10 with Arthur Goldberg, B. and K. counsel and Harry Lustgarten, B. and K. official, for the purpose of having the decree explained and how it would effect buying and booking for local downtown theatres.

Balaban said he had nothing to do with activities of Paramount and that

(*Continued on page 4*)

Treasury Against Admission Tax Cut

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Although recommending 49 changes in the Federal tax laws to the House Ways and Means Committee, the Treasury Department today failed to suggest a reduction in the admission tax or other excises.

"Under present conditions, we cannot safely undertake this year some of the basic structural changes that will ultimately be desirable, due to the large losses in revenue they might entail," A. L. M. Wiggin, Treasury Under-Secretary, declared.

Report Snag in Tax Talks, Mulvey Out

Reports were received in New York last night that "complications" had arisen yesterday in the efforts, current in London, to settle the British film tax problem. In consequence, it was said, James A. Mulvey, SIMPP representative at the settlement discussions, had withdrawn and is due to leave London by plane today for New York.

The report could not be confirmed nor could it be determined whether the reported complexities also affected the continued participation of Eric Johnston in the negotiations.

Try '306' Solution At Meeting Today

Representatives of IATSE projectionists' Local No. 306 and affiliated circuits here will meet again today in an endeavor to reach an agreement on the long-standing contract dispute which yesterday threatened to result in an operators' strike that could close some 120 theatres in the New York Metropolitan area, including some of the larger Broadway first-runs.

The local's membership voted Tuesday to reject a contract negotiated two months ago when "IA" international

(*Continued on page 4*)

'Bleak House' Look Greeted Eric Johnston in London

Canada Hopes for More British Films

Ottawa, March 3. — Strong pleas are being made in the Canadian Parliament here to induce the government to encourage more British film imports to save U. S. dollars by replacing American films as much as possible this year. However, reports reaching here do not hold much hope of Canada being able to get the desired number of British imports to replace Hollywood product, since British production is not progressing sufficiently to meet such demands.

LONDON, Feb. 29 (Via Airmail).—Upon his arrival here yesterday from New York, Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, found the British capital's film theatres wearing a sort of "Bleak House" look.

In the 21 West End houses there were on view only seven new U. S. pictures not generally released. They were "Unconquered," "The Best Years of Our Lives," "Road to Rio," "Cry Wolf," "Heaven Only Knows," "Personal Column" (shown in the U. S. as "Lured") and "The Red Stallion."

Also playing were nine U. S. re-issues, among them "Mrs. Miniver"; six new British productions, "My Brother Jonathan," "Anna Karenina," "Just William's Luck," "Blanche Fury," "Daughter of Darkness" and "An Ideal Husband"; five British re-issues, one

(*Continued on page 4*)

British Tax Settlement Plan Emerging

$16 Million Remittance In 1948 Could Be All

LONDON, March 3.—The pattern of discussions for an attempted settlement of Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax were partially revealed today.

It appears to involve arrangements covering remittance to the United States of $16,000,000 in 1948 and the retention in Britain under conditions so far not disclosed of the balance of American company earnings here.

The general plan of settlement, particularly with respect to the amount of earnings to be retained here, was referred for study by the U. S. negotiators to their respective companies' accounts today.

Under the chairmanship of Joyce O'Hara, assistant to Eric Johnston,

(*Continued on page 4*)

Archibald Predicts 40 for Rank in '48

The Rank Oganization in England, working full capacity, will produce 40 features this year, an increase of 12 over last, George Archibald, managing director of Independent Producers, Ltd., major Rank producing unit, disclosed here yesterday. Archibald, who arrived here from London yesterday, pointed out that in 1946, 19 features were made by Rank. The budget for the current year's production has been set to run from $36,000,000 to $40,000,000, he observed, which is two-and-a-half times the budget of 1946.

Archibald asserted that no specific attempt is being made by British film

(*Continued on page 4*)

Good Films Key to Prosperity: Taurog

Norman Taurog, veteran M-G-M director, observes here that with good pictures the industry can operate on an economically sound basis with or without the foreign market. Hollywood has always proved itself in times of urgency, Taurog said, and present

(*Continued on page 4*)

Personal Mention

NEIL F. AGNEW, president of Selznick Releasing Organization, is in Los Angeles from New York.

•

MAX MILDER, president of Warner International, and MRS. MILDER and JAMES E. PERKINS, Paramount managing director for Great Britain, will leave New York tomorrow on the *SS Queen Mary* for England.

•

HAROLD POSTMAN, assistant to M-G-M exchange operations head ALAN F. CUMMINGS, is due back in New York Monday from a tour of the South.

•

ROBERT W. COYNE, Theatre Owners of America executive director, and HERMAN LEVY, general counsel, will leave New York today for the Coast.

•

NORMAN ELSON, vice-president of Trans-Lux Theatres here, is in Washington today and is expected to return tomorrow.

•

SIR PHILIP A. WARTER, chairman and director of Associated British Pictures, will leave here tomorrow for the Coast.

•

STANLEY KRAMER, Screen Plays, Inc., producer, and GEORGE GLASS, vice-president, are en route to the Coast from New York.

•

JOEL BEZAHLER, M-G-M sales executive, has returned to New York from Chicago.

•

PAUL N. LAZARUS, JR., United Artists advertising-publicity director, left here yesterday for Hollywood.

•

BENNETT COMPTON, who arrived here yesterday from London, will leave today for the M-G-M studio.

•

BEN MELNIKER, of M-G-M's legal department, is expected back in New York today from Chicago.

•

JAMES COSTON, Warner Brothers Circuit Management head, has left Chicago for Los Angeles.

•

ROBERT SAXTON of Exhibitor's Service, Charlotte, is hospitalized following a minor operation.

•

J. S. ANDERSON has been named chairman of the Manitoba (Canada) film censor board.

•

FRED ZINNEMAN, M-G-M director, is in town from the Coast.

AAA Hearing Backs UA on "Red River"

An arbitrators' panel here yesterday ruled in favor of United Artists in an American Arbitration Association hearing of the dispute with Monterey Pictures (Howark Hawks) over delivery of "Red River" to the plaintiff. The arbitrators held that the picture was completed and must be turned over to UA for distribution under the terms of the defendant's contract with the company.

News Briefs . . .

Irene Kuhn and Daughter to Speak at Ampa Luncheon

Irene Kuhn, National Broadcasting's assistant director of information, here, and her daughter, Rene, radio commentator and novelist, will be the speakers at the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers luncheon at Town Hall Club on March 25 honoring the industry's advertising and publicity women. Also on the dais will be advertising and publicity women from the major companies. Blanche Livingston, Evelyn Koleman and Marjorie Harker will be the meeting's co-chairmen.

Agnew Heads Independents in New York Boy Scout Drive

Neil Agnew has been named chairman of the independent producers' committee in the 1948 fund-raising drive of the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America.

Amusement division committee chairmen also appointed include Leonard Goldenson, producers and distributors; Fred J. Schwartz, circuit and independent theatres; Frank Meyer, motion picture suppliers and laboratories; Martin Quigley and John W. Alicoate, trade publishers; Milton Berle, artists. Goldenson is also chairman of the amusement division.

Desmond Theatre Parking Bill Is Killed in N. Y. Assembly

ALBANY, N. Y., March 3.—The Assembly Cities Committee today killed the Desmond Bill requiring off-street parking facilities of 200 square feet for each 10 seats in theatres hereafter erected in cities. The measure had unanimously passed the Senate.

Copyright Fee Increased

WASHINGTON, March 3. — The House has approved a bill raising the copyright fee from $2 to $3. Bill was supported by the Motion Picture Association of America and other information groups as leading to increased efficiency in the Copyright Office. It now goes to the Senate.

Realign E-L Sales District Supervised by Clair Hilgers

The Eagle-Lion sales territory supervised by Clair Hilgers, Southwestern district manager, will hereafter comprise the exchange cities of Oklahoma City, Dallas, St. Louis, Des Moines and Omaha, William J. Heineman, vice-president in charge of distribution, announced here yesterday. The district will now be known as the Southwestern-Central district.

The change, Heineman said, is in keeping with his plans to realign existing sales department assignments and to re-zone existing sales districts.

Columbia Upheld in Parks' Suit; Court Hits Film 'Loan-out' Deals

LOS ANGELES, March 3. — Ruling against Larry Parks in the actor's suit for declaratory relief from his contract with Columbia, Federal Court Judge William C. Mathes today held that since Parks continued to work under the agreement for two years he was bound to continue for the duration of the pact. In a side reference the court criticized Hollywood contracts which enable employers to loan out talent.

Albright Heads Film Council

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Roger Albright of the Motion Picture Association of America, was elected chairman of the Washington Film Council at a meeting here today. Samuel F. Harby of the Veterans Administration was elected vice-chairman; Florence Cariker of the MPAA, secretary, and Marian Jarnagin of the Agriculture Department, treasurer.

Schlaifer Conferring in Field

Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising-publicity for 20th Century-Fox, enroute to New York from the Coast, is meeting with exhibitors across the country on publicity-advertising plans for Darryl F. Zanuck's "Gentleman's Agreement," as well as other pictures scheduled for the near future.

2 Bills Cut Tax on Story, Music Sales

WASHINGTON, March 3.—A bill has been introduced in the House to put a 25 per cent ceiling on taxes which authors and composers must pay on the sale or assignment of motion picture rights to any literary, dramatic or musical work. At present such income is subject to the regular progressive income tax. The bill would treat it as a capital gain, which is subject to a maximum tax of 25 per cent. A companion bill would hold the tax to 30 per cent of the total proceeds.

Both bills, referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, where they will probably remain buried, were introduced by Representative Scott of Philadelphia at request of private persons.

Mochrie Places 'Joan' At Top of RKO List

Walter Wanger's "Joan of Arc" was highly commended yesterday by Robert Mochrie, RKO Radio's domestic distribution vice-president, following his return to New York from a Coast studio production inspection.

Mochrie also listed other RKO Radio forthcoming key product as follows: "Rachel and the Stranger," "Your Red Wagon," "Station West," "Roughshod," "Berlin Express," "The Velvet Touch," "Melody Time," "I Remember Mama," "The Miracle of the Bells" and "Fort Apache."

Finkel Joins E-L

Robert Finkel has resigned as salesman for Screen Guild Productions to join Eagle-Lion in the same capacity.

Record Rise in Film, Equipment Exports

WASHINGTON, March 3. — Exports of motion picture film and equipment were at record levels in 1947, according to a preliminary estimate of the U. S. Commerce Department.

Shipments of unexposed film (raw stock) amounted to 454,905,051 feet, approximately 55 per cent greater than the 1946 shipments of 292,143,[illegible]0 feet. Value of the 1947 shipments was $6,781,822, compared with $4,436,198 in the preceding year.

Exports of exposed features totaled 311,240,153 feet last year, about 10 per cent above 1946's 284,415,599 feet. Value of the 1947 shipments was $8,520,258, compared with $7,147,076 in 1946.

Rocky Mt. Allied Spurns Foundation

DENVER, March 3.—Endorsing national Allied States' policy of nonparticipation in the Motion Picture Foundation, industry-wide humanitarian organization, the board of directors of Rocky Mountain Allied here has voted against giving aid to the MPF.

"If any individual exhibitor wants to contribute to the Foundation, that is his personal business," the Allied organization said. "But we do not urge and will not sponsor any collections for the Foundation."

National Allied, in refusing its cooperation, said individual Allied units were free to set their own policy with respect to the Foundation.

66% of Fan Papers' Readers in 83 Cities

Analysis of the readership of the 12 fan magazines represented by the Association of Screen Magazine Publishers, Inc., reveals that some 66 per cent is concentrated in 83 cities, it was announced here yesterday by the association.

The 83 are said to be those responsible for the overwhelming percentage of the film industry's domestic revenue, sales departments having noted that the success of a picture in the 83 cities and their trading areas indicate closely what their ultimate success will be in point of total revenue.

Miami Beach in Film

Arrangements have been consummated for producing what is described as a $2,000,000 motion picture based upon Miami Beach, it was announced by Robert Taplinger, vice-president of Enterprise, for which Enterprise has purchased the rights to "Fabulous Hoosier," written by Jane Fisher, widow of Carl Fisher, "the Father of Miami Beach." The picture will be titled "The Miami Beach Story."

New NBC Video Link

SAN FRANCISCO, March 3. — The television station to be constructed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* will be National Broadcasting affiliate in this city.

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SPRING FORECAST:

"APRIL SHOWERS" IN MARCH!







WE POUR IT ON!

TORRENTS OF TUNES!
(12 ALL-TIME FAVORITES!)

BUCKETS OF FUN!

AND IT'S RAINING GIRLS!
GIRLS!
GIRLS!





SING, EXHIBITORS! WARNER BROS.
FLOOD THE INDUSTRY WITH SUNSHINE!





starring JACK CARSON ★ ANN SOTHERN

with
ROBERT ALDA ☆ S.Z. SAKALL

Screen Play by Peter Milne • Suggested by a Story by Joe Laurie, Jr. • Musical Numbers Created and Staged by LeRoy Prinz • Music Arranged and Adapted by Ray Heindorf

Directed by JAMES V. KERN

Produced by WILLIAM JACOBS

WB

Good Films the Key

(*Continued from page* 1)

conditions are bringing the industry down to a more solid business basis.

Taurog, whose newest release is "The Bride Goes Wild," with Van Johnson and June Allyson, said that in his opinion there is going to be an increased trend toward comedy. He pointed out that in recent audience reaction polls, preference for comedy was expressed.

Taurog sees in television a form of competition that will stir Hollywood to greater effort. He said that one medium need not fear the other, adding that there "will eventually be a wedding of the two." Among other observations, Taurog praised the screen writer as being "the most important base of any picture."

Taurog, who also recently completed "Big City," with Betty Garrett and Margaret O'Brien, will leave here for the Coast tomorrow.

Ament Named

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the public interest against premature news disclosures.

The meeting was addressed by Forrestal and top Army, Navy, atomic energy and other defense officials, all of whom made the same request: Some way must be devised to make sure that vital information does not leak out before national security allows it to. The sub-committee will attempt to come up with an answer to the problem.

Ament said everyone at the meeting seemed to be making a "genuine effort to cooperate," and predicted the sub-committee would come up with some plan within 30 days.

Motion Picture Association of America president Eric A. Johnston had accepted an invitation to the meeting, but in the haste of getting ready for his European trip overlooked designating a substitute. Consequently no representative of the producers was present.



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Britain Draws Last Of Loan from U.S.

Washington, March 3. — Great Britain has withdrawn the last $100,000,000 of its $3,750,000,000 U. S. loan, the Treasury Department disclosed here today. Britain used the entire loan, scheduled to last three years or better, in 19½ months.

British Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

Motion Picture Association of America president, American industry representatives are preparing a report which is scheduled to be presented to the negotiating group tomorrow. It is still hoped that the conferences can be concluded then.

James Mulvey of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers staked a forthright claim on remittances for independent producers at today's meeting.

The trend of the settlement discussions implies that it is inevitable that returns to American companies from this market will be reduced. That appears to be unavoidable in view of Britain's dollar position.

Agreement Would Replace Tax

However, certain government officials here have done an about-face on their former insistence upon the film tax being continued. The tax, it now appears, would be wiped out if agreement is reached. Unremittable balances, amount unknown, may be channeled into approved investments or utilized in accordance with British needs.

The negotiations have taken on much more than trade significance here since they imply a Cabinet cleavage between Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin. In endeavoring to return American films to Britain, Bevin has overridden Cripps' basic policy of austerity. Cripps is acidly sulky in consequence, but what is important is that Bevin had his way.

Douglas Flying to U. S.

American Ambassador Lewis O. Douglas is scheduled to leave here for Washington by plane on Saturday and presumably would like to carry with him some good news on the film problem.

40 for Rank in '48

(*Continued from page* 1)

makers to slant pictures toward the American market, but rather they aim toward films with artistic integrity and authenticity. He said that "the future of the British industry lies in its program of big and important pictures."

Archibald observed that not more than 60 per cent of big British productions are amortized domestically. He also noted that about $4,000,000 has been spent since the war on repairing and modernizing studio facilities, and that under present regulations only about $2,000,000 more can be spent. Before returning to London on March 27, he expects to tour some of exchanges in the East to get reactions to British pictures.

Kent and Blumberg May Sail Tomorrow

LONDON, March 3.—Larry Kent, 20th Century-Fox managing director here, and Mrs. Kent, will be among those sailing for New York on the *Queen Elizabeth* Friday. Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, is another prospective passenger.

Previously booked for the trip were J. Arthur Rank, Sam Eckman, Robert Wolff and G. I. Woodham-Smith.

'Bleak House' Look

(*Continued from page* 1)

French picture and one Italian picture.

Only two new American films, "Unfaithful" and "Heaven Only Knows," were on display at first-runs in the suburbs. Other product there comprised five American re-issues, including "Mrs. Miniver"; four new British films, among them "An Ideal Husband" and "Vice Versa," and an equal number of British re-issues, including an early James Mason item called "Atlantic Episode."

Sorrell Denies

(*Continued from page* 1)

for the first time during the 12 days of committee hearings. He told the committee that first he would answer one by one the charges of Communist affiliation made by IATSE attorney Matthew Levy, then would bring out some facts of his own concerning "racketeering" in the "IA," and finally would "expose the filth in the labor relations of the motion picture industry."

The only interruption in the steady flow of Sorrell's testimony came toward the close of the hearing when the committee examined a purported Communist Party membership card for Sorrell, introduced as evidence by IATSE attorney Matthew Levy. Sorrell wrote his signature for the committee and told it that any hand-writing expert it selected would declare that the signature on the card was a forgery.

The committee is expected to decide tomorrow whether or not it will bring in an expert to determine the authenticity of the signature. With the introducion of the card, and the controversy it is expected to generate, several committee members stated that they now thought the hearings would not close by the end of the week, as expected previously.

Try '306' Solution

(*Continued from page* 1)

president Richard F. Walsh participated in wage-raise talks. A 15 per cent increase agreed to at that time is mutually satisfactory and is not under dispute at present, a "306" spokesman said yesterday. The local's resentment, he said, lies in the fact that the companies drew up the contract, "which would make '306' a company union."

The local has sent Walsh, now attending the "IA" board meeting in Pittsburgh, a request for strike authorization. It is believed that Walsh would prefer to attempt to reach an agreement upon his return here before granting any strike authorization. He is due back on Monday.

Evelyn Jones Promoted

Donahue and Coe, which handles a number of film and theatre advertising accounts, has advanced Evelyn Lee Jones to time buyer.

Balaban Testifies

(*Continued from page* 1)

he had no knowledge of any agreements with Paramount and Warners with respect to maintaining a tacit price agreement with Warners and B. and for buying pictures. He said he would not have permitted it if he had known anything about it.

Says Immerman Handled Buying

Balaban said that Walter Immerman, B. and K. vice-president had direct contract for film-buying negotiations. McConnell asked him what he knew about "Unconquered" with respect to a $1.20 admission price charged at the United Artists. Balaban said that he made the decision and that Paramount did not set the admission price. The main factor, he said in charging that amount was "we paid a 60 per cent guarantee for film rental, later reduced to 50 per cent and could not make any profit otherwise." McConnell asked Balaban if he knew that the fixing of admission prices was a violation of the decree, to which Balaban replied, "yes." Balaban said that Immerman negotiated the deal for "Where There's Life."

McConnell: You knew that "Where's There's Life" was bought with clearance.

Balaban: Not at the time.

McConnell then produced the contract which showed a 21-day clearance. Balaban said he did not know the decree inferred waiting time, but that Arthur Goldberg had advised him the decree only prohibited a uniform clearance.

Decision on 'Unconquered'

McConnell: Did you not conclude that "Unconquered" was bound by this decree?

Balaban: Yes, I did conclude that, but we did take the picture out two weeks after the decree.

McConnell: Did you talk to Barney Balaban regarding the decree?

Balaban: I only told Barney Balaban that he would not recognize the manner in which pictures were being booked in outlying theatres.

McConnell: You knew this decree enjoins waiting time, does it not, and outlying theatres had to wait 21 days before playing "Where's There's Life" and "Golden Earrings"?

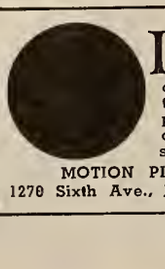
Balaban: Yes.

Other witnesses called to the stand were Morton Lane, Paramount New York attorney and Charles Davidson, B. and K. assistant booker and buyer.

Judge Igoe dismissed the contempt charges against Jack Flynn.

Joins Anti-Red Group

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Adolphe Menjou's affiliation with the Committee to Stop World Communism was announced here today by Arthur Bliss Lane, co-chairman. Among others who have joined are William J. Donovan, Guthrie McClintic and New York's former governor, Charles Poletti. The aim of the committee is to preserve American security and restore freedom and democracy in Europe.



IF you are a producer, and can use the services of a capable assistant with capital and 3 swell scripts, write Box 411, MOTION PICTURE DAILY 1270 Sixth Ave., New York 20, N. Y.





He gives the scene its heartbeat...

THIS meeting of mother and child is no make-believe—not to the movie-goers!

To them, it is as real as life itself, thanks to the director of the picture. Through his perceptive handling of action, dialogue, and camera, he has given the scene its human touch, its heartbeat . . . made the audience feel its warmth, its mood—and live the moment, one with the personalities on the screen.

And this achievement is the mark of his mastery of the dramatic; the gauge of his creative contribution to the motion picture art.

But if such artistry is to have full expression, the director must have the assistance of film that gives him ample freedom to achieve the effects he desires. This freedom he finds in the family of Eastman motion picture films.

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UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL proudly heralds "ALL MY SONS" as a significant event in motion picture history.

"ALL MY SONS" was the New York Drama Critics' prize play in 1947. We feel that it has been brought so gloriously to the screen that it will be automatically acclaimed as the prize motion picture of 1948.

Already the picture "ALL MY SONS" has received sufficient critical acclaim to warrant this prediction.

It is our intention in future advertising to acquaint the entire motion picture industry with the aggregate values contained in this picture.

It is our firm conviction that you will want to make a point of seeing this picture as soon as it is made available for screenings.

It is one of those magnificent dramas that must be seen to be appreciated.

In the meantime, let us leave you with a quotation from a review which recently appeared in The Film Daily which states:

"'ALL MY SONS' has all the fine qualities for making and breaking records. 'ALL MY SONS' is as fine as they come".

This is typical of the pre-release publicity which is attending this memorable motion picture.

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL presents

EDWARD G. ROBINSON · BURT LANCASTER

in "ALL MY SONS"

with MADY CHRISTIANS · HOWARD DUFF · LOUISA HORTON
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Written and Produced for the Screen by CHESTER ERSKINE

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N. Y.

VOL. 63. NO. 44 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1948 TEN CENTS

TOA Board to Approve New ASCAP Rates

Coyne Says Overwhelming Support Is a Certainty

Virtually unanimous approval of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' new schedule of theatre seat music taxes will come from the Theatre Owners of America's board of directors when it meets Tuesday and Wednesday in Los Angeles, Robert W. Coyne, TOA executive director, predicted here yesterday as he boarded a train bound for the Coast meeting. TOA board represents 28 affiliated units across the country, with a claimed membership of some 10,000 theatres.

Presentation to the board of the new rates, which evolved on Feb. 6 after months of negotiations between Ascap and TOA, will be in the form

(*Continued on page 3*)

ITOA-Ascap Trust Trial Starts Here

Monopoly action brought against Ascap by Alden-Rochelle, Inc., and 160 other members of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York went to trial in U. S. District Court here yesterday, before Judge Vincent L. Liebell.

Opening day was taken up primarily by the presentation by Milton C. Weisman, counsel for the plaintiffs, of documentary evidence.

The trial will be resumed this morning with the presentation of further documentary evidence in behalf of the plaintiffs, who seek to restrain Ascap from levying any music tax on theatres.

Sorrell Again Hits Walsh and Brewer

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Herbert K. Sorrell, Conference of Studio Unions president, charged today that Richard F. Walsh and Roy Brewer, IATSE president and international representative, respectively, are "following the same line" as George Browne and Willie Bioff.

Asked if he meant that Walsh and Brewer are taking money from Hollywood producers, Sorrell replied, "I'll tell you that when I'm ready."

On the stand for the second con-

(*Continued on page 2*)

HOLLYWOOD ON TRIAL

By MARTIN QUIGLEY

Hollywood

THERE is no secret in the fact that Hollywood production in this post-war period is confronted with the necessity of following a line of critical readjustments.

That fact is well-known, even to certain recalcitrant elements who up to now have chosen to ignore the necessity for change and continue intent upon the pursuit of policies and practices which have long since been lacking in economic justification.

A public hungry for amusement during wartime, and well-supplied with money, builded in the typical Hollywood mind a whole structure of false and unsubstantial assumptions. Despite many outstanding attractions, the war years saw no general improvement in the quality level. Many pictures of indifferent merit went out, produced encouraging returns and thereby were the cause of enabling those responsible for them to indulge in the illusion that they were making good.

Many persons in Hollywood have been shocked to find the easy glide downhill abruptly ended. Too many of these remain unadjusted to the new conditions and are still wandering about in a daze of disillusionment.

Serious and widespread attention is being given to the reduction of a cost level which had become unsupportable under any foreseeable conditions. The result of this attention indicates some lessening in costs. Subjects are being selected with an eye to the avoidance of that type of story and treatment which naturally involves heavy expenditure. Shooting schedules are being shortened and an all-around effort is being made to speed-up the work in every phase of the process. New contracts covering the lesser talent in all categories are being negotiated on a more realistic basis. Principal personalities, however, are reaching for and frequently obtaining compensation deals that even top previous records.

The influence of the combination of measures being employed to control costs will be reflected in the new product. It will be reflected in reduced outlays for product. It may also come into evidence upon the screen as a cheapening of the product.

This latter possibility arises out of the fact that while efforts are being made to effect savings under the existing system of production which has been grafted onto Hollywood during the past twenty years little or nothing has yet been done in the direction of reforming the system itself—a system which has taken on a rank and odorous growth of privilege, abuse, politics and extravagance.

THE godlike importance in Hollywood of many rather ordinary men and women who are the accidental beneficiaries of the importance and financial significance of the medium with which they happen to be associated is something much more suited to a kindergarten class playing at make-believe than to a practical world of mature reality.

It is not just a matter of having innocent fun when such a person insists upon being called a "creator", thus appropriating to himself an appellation which in all previous history served only to mark the distinction between the divine and the human. The influence of this kind of insistence and all that goes with it has nurtured an impracti-

(*Continued on page 3*)

U.K. Tax Talks Continue; May Finish Today

Johnston Meets Wilson Today; Mulvey Staying

LONDON, March 4.—Completion of efforts to reach a settlement of Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax, which it had been hoped might be achieved today, were slightly delayed. Meanwhile, movement of the negotiations appears to be in the right direction.

During the day accountants for American companies completed a report on the still-undisclosed amount of earnings of Hollywood films in this market which would be retained here under the formula for settlement of the tax under discussion.

The accountants' report was submitted to the main negotiating com-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Hacker, Fitzgibbons Are Award Winners

Charles R. Hacker, now with Standard Theatres, Milwaukee, is No. 1 showman in the Annual Quigley Showmanship Awards, so designated by some 80 showmen, including circuit heads, home office publicity, advertising and exploitation men, and others, at the Annual Quigley Awards competition, held last Monday in the

(*Continued on page 3*)

'Drastic Action' If No Solution: '306' Official

Threat of "drastic action" by projectionists in the Metropolitan area, affecting operations of some 120 theatres here, was raised last night by an official of IATSE Local No. 306 as representatives of the union and affiliated circuits prepared for an all-night session. "Drastic action" would be decided this morning by the projectionists if the negotiators failed to solve the impasse revolving about certain clauses of the contract offered by the circuits.

Personal Mention

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic distribution chief, is expected here on March 15 from Hollywood.

•

ARTHUR L. MAYER, operator of the Rialto Theatre here, and H. WILLIAM FITELSON, film specialist, will speak here tonight on "The Film Industry" at the New School for Social Research.

•

PAUL RAIBOURN, Paramount vice-president; STANLEY SHUFORD, BEN WASHER, SID MESIBOV, REX TAYLOR, MILTON HOFFMAN and PAUL ACKERMAN will leave here over the week-end for studio conferences.

•

JERRY PICKMAN, Eagle-Lion advertising-publicity assistant director, and SAM ISRAEL, studio publicity director, are due back in New York today from the Coast.

•

JACK SEGAL, Columbia International vice-president, will be married today at Palm Beach to SHIRLEY EDELMAN of New York.

•

DUKE HICKEY, Motion Picture Association of America community relations division field coordinator, is in town for conferences.

•

LEONARD GOLDENSON, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, will leave here on Sunday for the Coast.

•

LEO LERNER of Columbia International, here, and MRS. LERNER, have become parents of a son.

•

A. PAM BLUMENTHAL, of Cinecolor's board of directors, has left Hollywood for New York.

•

ARGYLE NELSON, production manager for DAVID O. SELZNICK, has returned to Hollywood from Sweden.

Para. Settles With Cooper Foundation

Paramount has settled its controversies with the Cooper Foundation, the former announced here yesterday.

By the settlement Paramount divested itself of its claims against the Foundation for a one-half interest in 11 theatres, including the Stuart and Nebraska theatres in Lincoln, Neb.; the Ute, Trail and Tompkins theatres in Colorado Springs; the Main and Uptown in Pueblo, Colo.; Sterling and Park, Greeley, Colo., and the Cooper and Joy in Grand Junction, Colo.

Further, Paramount sold to the Foundation its one-half interest in the corporations operating the Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb., and the Criterion, Capitol, Tower, Ritz, Plaza and Victoria Theatres, Oklahoma City.

Paramount received an undisclosed sum from Cooper Foundation in payment for the interests sold.

'Loop' Decree Case Terminates Today

CHICAGO, March 4.—Final arguments were presented today by Thomas McConnell, Jackson Park Theatre attorney, in his contempt citation against the majors and circuits, while Judge Michael Igoe of U. S. District Court again attacked the defendants through Ed Johnston, Paramount and Balaban and Katz attorney.

"It is quite apparent from final evidence that when you took the position to have the conspiracy broken up, you assumed the element of evil could be continued individually," the judge said.

McConnell reviewed the charges of violations made against each defendant company and concluded by asserting that there had been a well-thought-out scheme to circumvent the decree. The entire motion picture industry, he charged, was threatening the entire system of the U. S. District Court.

Johnston and Otto Koegel, 20th Century-Fox counsel, in their summations, contended the decree was susceptible to ambiguity insofar as clearance and waiting time were involved.

Earlier in the day, Sam Gorelich, RKO Radio branch manager, testified on the negotiations he had with the plaintiff and explained the RKO zoning system.

The hearing will conclude tomorrow with other defendants presenting their final arguments.

Sorrell

(*Continued from page* 1)

secutive day before the House Labor sub-committee's investigation of the studio jurisdictional dispute, Sorrell, who did not conclude his testimony today, will be followed by CSU attorney George Bodle. IATSE spokesmen are slated to follow to answer the CSU allegations, thus extending the Congressional probe for another week at least.

Sorrell today said that Walsh and Brewer represent "only a change in names" from their predecessors and that they "came in with the Communist charge only to protect themselves."

Earlier, Sorrell described his attempts to organize workers in the Los Angeles exchanges in 1941 or 1942. After it was accomplished, he asserted, Walsh and Nicholas Schenck "got together and made a deal covering the entire country."

Under the agreement, Sorrell said, exchange workers were let into the IATSE, "but they didn't get enough of a pay raise to pay their dues." He admitted, however, it is not a conspiracy for a labor union head to deal with producers on behalf of the workers, but, he added, the 'IA' "protects" the producers and both the 'IA' and producers were put into a position where they could "hurt" the workers.

Congressman Kearns, chairman of the sub-committee, also announced today that the unit would go into executive session to decide whether to call in a handwriting expert to determine the authenticity of a Communist Party card alleged to be Sorrell's.

News Briefs

Sanction Deals for US Showings Abroad

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The House of Representatives today authorized the State Department to contract with foreign companies to insure the showing of State Department-sponsored American films in theatres abroad. The authority is expected to be used chiefly in connection with inserting U. S. footage in foreign newsreels.

The action came as an amendment to a pending State Department appropriation bill allocating $28,000,000 to the overseas information program. Attempts to raise the fund to the $34,378,000 asked by President Truman were defeated by a voice vote today, and it is expected the $28,000,000 will get final House approval tomorrow.

Committees Named by Mayer For Associates Dinner-Dance

Plans are progressing for the annual dinner-dance of the Motion Picture Associates scheduled for the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel May 21, with appointment by MPA president Arthur Mayer of several new committees.

Robert Weitman, managing director of the Paramount Theatre, here, will head the entertainment committee; Maurice Bergman has accepted the editorship of the souvenir journal, advertising for which will be handled by Ralph Pielow and Edward Hyman; publicity will be supervised by Leon J. Bamberger and the regular public relations committee.

Weill Named to UA Board

Harold Weill of the law firm of Leon, Weill and Mahony, has been elected a member of the United Artists board of directors, the company anounced here yesterday. Weill will be one of four directors representing Mary Pickford, co-owner of UA with Charles Chaplin.

Albany TOA Meeting to Elect

ALBANY, N. Y., March 4.—Additional directors will be elected by the Albany unit of Theatre Owners of America tomorrow at the Kenmore Hotel here, Harry Lamont, temporary chairman, announced.

Child Admittance Bill to Governor

ALBANY, N. Y., March 4.—The Hults-Strong bill, passed by the State legislature to extend to "towns" the right to admit children to theatres with matrons on duty, is now awaiting Governor Dewey's signature.

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Rockefeller Center
RONALD COLMAN
"A DOUBLE LIFE"
SIGNE HASSO - EDMOND O'BRIEN
A Kanin Production
A Universal-International Release
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTAT

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
starring DICK POWELL - SIGNE HASSO
A COLUMBIA PICTURE
RIVOLI B'way & 49th St.

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD TO RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

WALT DISNEY'S
BAMBI
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
11th WEEK BRANDT'S REPUBLIC B'way & 51st St.

Gentleman's Agreement
BRANDT'S MAYFAIR
20th CENTURY-FOX
7th Ave. & 47th St.

JAMES STEWART
"CALL NORTHSIDE 777"
20th Century-Fox
PLUS ON STAGE
HAZEL SCOTT
RAYE & NALDI
Extra! GIL LAMB
ROXY
7th Ave. & 50th St.

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TOA Board

(*Continued from page* 1)

of a resolution of acceptance which the members will be asked to ratify, Coyne said. He termed ratification a virtual *fait accompli,* pointing out that all TOA units had been apprised beforehand of the new rates and the vast majority had already signified approval, although many expressed doubts of success. About 20 units have wired congratulations on the outcome of the negotiations, Coyne said, and added that some of those which have not done so were among those which expressed approval of the TOA rate goal at the outset.

Typical of the reception accorded the new rates by TOA units is that expressed in a wire received here yesterday by Morris Loewenstein, head of Theatre Owners of Oklahoma. He said: "Decision approving TOA-Ascap deal practically unanimous. . . ."

Represented at the TOA board meeting will be: Alabama Theatre Owners and Managers, California Theatres Association, Southern California Theatre Owners, Florida Theatre Owners, United Theatre Owners of Illinois, Kansas-Missouri Theatre Association, Kentucky Association of Theatre Owners, Allied Theatres of New England, New Jersey TOA, New Mexico Theatre Association, TOA of Albany, Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, Theatre Owners of Oklahoma, United Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware, Tennessee Theatre Owners, Texas Theatre Owners, Virginia Motion Picture Theatre Association.

Also the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the following: Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee (including Independent Theatre Owners of Arkansas, MPTO of Mississippi and MPTO of Western Tennessee), Connecticut, Georgia, St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, Western New York, Rhode Island, Washington, D. C., and West Virginia.

TOA Denied Chance To Testify on Tax

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The Senate Finance Committee has turned down a request from the Theatre Owners of America to testify in favor of an admission tax cut during current hearings on the Knutson income tax bill, according to A. Julian Brylawski, TOA legislative representative.

QP Awards

(*Continued from page* 1)

Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. Hacker will receive the Silver Plaque for his promotional campaigns while managing the Palace Theatre in Milwaukee for Fox Wisconsin Theatres.

No. 2 showman, and recipient of the Bronze Plaque, is Mildred Fitzgibbons, for her campaigns in Flushing, N. Y., where she manages the Roosevelt for Skouras Theatres.

The special Overseas Plaque goes to Len Chant, for his campaigns in Preston, England, where he manages the New Victoria Theatre for Gaumont-British.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to five managers:

Willis Shaffer, Fox Atchison Theatre, Atchison, Kan.; William V. Novk, Capitol Theatre, Winnipeg, Canada; Sol Sorkin, RKO Keith's Theatre, Flushing, N. Y.; Phil Katz, Kenyon Theatre, Pittsburgh; William Hastings, RKO Orpheum Theatre, Denver.

Honorable Mentions in the overseas division were awarded to:

Percival B. Singh, DeLuxe Theatre, Port of Spain, Trinidad; Trevor B. Kerridge, St. James Theatre, Auckland, New Zealand; Carlo Giacheri, Astor Theatre, Turin, Italy; Mr. Ambrosio, Art-Palacio Theatre, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

HOLLYWOOD ON TRIAL

(*Continued from page 1)*

cal and fantastic system that needs sharp pruning, root and branch. The system costs millions which never show on the screen.

The Hollywood agent, generally speaking, contributes nothing to production but expense and nothing to his client but discontent. And strange, indeed, is the gracious acceptance that the studios bestow upon him and his efforts in pyramiding talent costs to a point at which the goose of the golden egg has become seriously undernourished.

Hollywood has provided a rich labor market. It gives employment to artisans of fifty-odd crafts and occupations at wage rates unsurpassed anywhere in the world. The work-day and the work-week have in many instances been curtailed to a point at which gainful employment is practically a part-time job. Intricate divisions of work, operations and responsibilities, all coming under the general head of "featherbedding", have been so artfully contrived that the resultant regulations would be plain funny if it were not that they have come to entail an expense to production which is more than the normal traffic will bear. Hollywood labor is coming dangerously near to either pricing itself out of employment or pricing the employer into insolvency.

The production community has given rise to a group of publicity dynasties which rule tyrannically. These dynasties seek, and frequently and mischievously achieve, dictation over what stories are to be made, who is to make them, how they are to be made, who is to write them, direct them and play in them.

Much of the executive personnel of the studios is so involved in deals and counter-deals with these dynasties that keeping the lines straight becomes a major daily occupation. To find the chief contributing cause of much of the adverse public relations that plague the industry one needs to turn only to the publicity which issues across the nation and the world from these sources.

These dynasties have long since departed from the simple journalistic practice of printing the news and minding their own business. Their purposes are largely political, social and financial. They are king-makers and star-makers, courts of last resort and prosecuting attorneys. They have established a rule of terror. They are a reckless part of a system which must be dealt with if Hollywood is sensibly to get itself in gear with the heavy responsibilities which the post-war period imposes.

HOLLYWOOD has been making and certainly will continue to make great motion pictures. This year will be no exception. But the spread between the outstanding attractions and the run-of-the-mill jobs is dangerously wide—so wide that unless it is quickly and definitely narrowed the screen will have a smaller and not a greater audience in the immediate years ahead.

Every needed type, and kind of skill and talent is present in the production community. There is plenty of know-how but there is also a vast accumulation of hindrances and distractions which get in the way of effective and consistent application of the know-how. There is too much dependence upon reputation rather than performance, especially in view of the fact that often the reputation in the first place was based more on window-dressing, intrigue and privilege than on performance.

Hollywood would like to explain its predicament by reference to the external dislocations of the post-war period, social, financial and whatever; by reference to the British tax scheme, the Supreme Court case, et cetera. But the plain fact remains that the present economic plight of the industry traces primarily to the gradual and persistent growth of a production system that became top-heavy with expense unsupportable by this or any other business.

The system, allowed a free sway during the lush war years, wound up eventually with inventories that have neither the merit of great quality nor sensible cost. Hence the inevitable day of realistic adjustment has arrived.

The next few months will determine whether the outcome is to be an expedient patch-work of compromise and evasion or whether it will be a genuine reformation of a system, filled with attitudes, assumptions and indulgences, that inevitably sacrifices quality and wastes money.

Deny Rank Demands 'U' Film Deliveries

LONDON, March 4.—Reports published here and in American papers to the effect that Universal, under alleged compulsion to fulfill contractual commitments for film deliveries to J. Arthur Rank, would ship pictures to Britain even though the *ad valorem* tax continues, were denied officially here today.

J. Cheever Cowdin, Universal board chairman, and Nate J. Blumberg, president, issued a statement describing the stories as "sheer imagination and without the slightest basis in fact."

The reports indicated that Rank was insistent that the films be shipped here regardless of the tax, even though that might necessitate Universal's withdrawal from the Motion Picture Association of America, and perhaps lead a general break-away from the embargo on shipment of American films to this country.

A spokesman for Rank denied this phase of the stories, saying that he, Rank, certainly would not make such a demand, particularly in view of Rank's friendly relations with other American distributors.

According to the reports, Rank supposedly aired the demand at his meeting with exhibitor representatives here last weekend. An exhibitor who was present at that meeting said that Rank had mentioned, entirely incidentally, that Eagle-Lion, not Universal, is under obligation to supply Rank with 30 pictures annually, but Rank definitely did not say he proposed to enforce even that contract, regardless of the tax situation.

U. K. Tax Talks

(*Continued from page* 1)

mittee, which had not completed its study of the report at a late hour tonight.

U. S. Representatives Leaving

Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, probably will confer with Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, tomorrow, which could mark the wind-up of the discussions. Most of the American representatives participating in the discussions plan to leave for New York by plane on Saturday.

There was no confirmation here of widely-circulated reports that the government will not abandon its 75 per cent film tax and that, in consequence, prospects of a settlement are hopeless. A second report to the effect that James Mulvey, representative of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, had withdrawn from the negotiations in the belief that they will prove fruitless, was denied. While noncommittal about his view of the outcome of the negotiations, Mulvey said he would not return to New York ahead of schedule, as had been reported. He said he does not plan to leave before Saturday, in accordance with original arrangements.

See $16,000,000 Limit

However, it still appears likely that the government is not prepared to offer more than $16,000,000 in remittances for 1948, and whether or not sufficiently attractive concessions to interest the American industry can be offered for disposition of the residue has not been disclosed.

The Event of the Season!

New York

TRADE SHOWING of

GEORGE STEVENS'

production of

"I REMEMBER MAMA"

NORMANDIE THEATRE

51 East 53rd St., at Park Ave., New York, N. Y.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, at 10.30 A. M. SHARP

DORE SCHARY

presents

IRENE DUNNE

in **GEORGE STEVENS'**

Production of

"I REMEMBER MAMA"

co-starring

BARBARA BEL GEDDES

OSCAR HOMOLKA · PHILIP DORN

with SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE · EDGAR BERGEN · RUDY VALLEE · BARBARA O'NEIL

Executive producer and director GEORGE STEVENS · Produced by HARRIET PARSONS

Screen Play by DeWITT BODEEN • Based upon the play by JOHN VAN DRUTEN

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 45 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1948 TEN CENTS

...OC. OF ...MBERS)

U. S. Has Plan To Unfreeze Some Dollars

Would Pay for Out-of-Pocket Selling Costs

WASHINGTON, March 7.—State Department plans for aiding the U. S. film industry in its current overseas monetary problems now center around straight contracts to pay film companies in dollars for their out-of-pocket expenses in distributing a limited number of films in selected foreign countries, it was learned here today.

In the early stages of aid discussion plans ranged all the way from having the American Embassies put the blocked funds through some sort of international clearing house where the

(*Continued on page* 5)

Tax Peace Would Aid UK Films: Rank

LONDON, March 7.—As he embarked on the *S. S. Queen Elizabeth* Friday for New York, British industry leader J. Arthur Rank said the industry here wants to see the current *ad valorem* tax settlement talks succeed because world distribution of

(*Continued on page* 5)

To Resume U. K. Tax Talks Today

London, March 7.—Discussions aimed at an attempted settlement of Britain's import film tax will be resumed here today by the team of Anglo-American negotiators, after a weekend recess.

No definitive developments were reported at the close of a joint meeting at the offices of the Board of Trade here on Friday. Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, and Harold Wilson, B. of T. president, had lunch together at the House of Commons in advance of Friday's meeting. Also in the luncheon party were . Allen Dulles, MPAA foreign adviser, and J. E. Bottomley, Parliamentary secretary for overseas trade.

Seeks $1,000,000 Bond for Chicago Decree Compliance

CHICAGO, March 7.—A bond of $1,000,000 should be posted by defendants in the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust case to be held in the office of the U. S. District Court here, and be returned only after they have shown compliance with the decree for one year, Thomas McConnell, Jackson Park Theatre attorney, suggested to Judge Michael Igoe on Friday. McConnell said he was not seeking damages, however.

Judge Igoe placed the hearings under advisement and closed by saying: "What I have said before in this court to the defendants is no indication of what I will decide."

Miles Seeley told the court in a final plea in behalf of RKO Radio and Loew's that the Jackson Park would have closed if RKO had not extended itself to furnish product, to which McConnell later agreed. Sam Gorelick, RKO branch manager, Seeley affirmed, tried to comply with the decree more than any other defendant although he was not a "high level executive of the company."

Loew's, Seeley said, took a "breathing spell" to correct its past errors in the Chicago system. They were

(*Continued on page* 4)

Another Trust Suit Hits Distributors

MEMPHIS, March 7.—Cape Pictures, Inc., Memphis, has filed a $330,000 suit against a group of distributors and exhibitors charging monopolistic practices in the release of films to theatres in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Cape Pictures, a Tennessee corporation, is headed by Harold Roth and Barney Woolner of Memphis and operates the Esquire in Cape Girardeau.

The bill of complaint names as defendants Warner Brothers, Universal, United Artists, 20th-Fox, Republic, Fox Mid-West Amusement Corp., Fox Cape Theatre Corp., National Theatres; Glen Carroll, manager of two Cape Girardeau theatres; Elmer C. Rhoden, Kansas City, president,

(*Continued on page* 4)

MGM to Release 11 Films in 5 Months

HOLLYWOOD, March 7. — M-G-M will release 11 productions between April 1 and Aug. 30, Louis B. Mayer, E. J. Mannix and William F. Rodgers, distribution vice-president, announced here at the weekend following the close of a week-long sales conference at the studio.

Overseas Budget Is Approved by House

Washington, March 7.—The House on Friday gave final approval to a $28,000,000 appropriation for the State Department's overseas information program, but rejected by a 78-to-41 vote, a move to increase it to the $34,378,000 asked for by the President. The measure now goes to the Senate.

The motion picture division was allotted $4,878,749 of the $34,378,000 requested, but will probably have its budget reduced slightly as a result of the House action.

TBA Urges FCC to Reduce Video Time

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The Television Broadcasters Association has asked the Federal Communications Commission to reduce the number of hours for which television stations must show programs during their early stages of development.

Need for sufficient film production and time to build up film libraries was one of the reasons, TBA said, its request was necessary. Others were the need for more network programs, for time to train television personnel and for increased receiver production. FCC rules require each station regularly to schedule not less than two hours a day and not less than 28 a week. The Commission has been waiving these rules every three months.

Ask 6 Film Leaders To Aid Bond Drive

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Six film industry leaders, including Motion Picture Association of America president Eric Johnston, have been asked by the Treasury Department to meet here March 18-20 to map out what the industry can do to aid the forthcoming "Security Loan" bond drive. Others called in by the department are: Ted Gamble, Theatre Owners of America head; Robert Mochrie, RKO Radio distribution executive; Robert Coyne, TOA executive director, Si Fabian and Paramount News general editor A. J. Richards.

Mrs. R. V. Oulahan, chief of the saving bond division's motion picture section, has just returned from the Coast where she worked with Warner Brothers on a revised version of "Power Behind the Nation" to tie in with the drive.

Allied Units Will Accept Ascap Rates

But Are Advised to Make One-Year Deals Only

KANSAS CITY, March 7.—Allied States has advised its affiliated units to accept the new theatre music licensing rates negotiated by the rival Theatre Owners of America with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and which are scheduled to become effective on March 15.

According to the Allied ITO of Kansas-Missouri, however, national Allied has warned its exhibitor members against entering into any contract with Ascap of more than one year's duration.

The new Ascap theatre rates represent an average 25 per cent increase over current music taxes. However, Ascap's original pitch was for a 300 per cent increase. In originally announcing the new rates, Ascap said

(*Continued on page* 5)

'306', NY Circuits Reach an Agreement

Agreement on a new contract was reached here at the weekend between representatives of local affiliated circuits and IATSE Local 306, following several days of closed meetings conducted in the atmosphere of a strike threat and accompanied by widespread disturbances in theatres.

The new contract, covering some 120 theatres in the Metropolitan area, will provide wage increases of 15 per cent over the $76.20 base weekly pay which the affiliated neighborhood projectionists now receive for a 28-hour

(*Continued on page* 5)

CSU Head's Charges Denied by Walsh

WASHINGTON, March 7.—IATSE president Richard F. Walsh at the weekend branded as a "vicious lie" a charge he said was made by Herbert K. Sorrell, head of the Conference of Studio Unions, to the effect that Walsh had "accepted money from film producers and that George E. Browne

(*Continued on page* 5)

Personal Mention

CHARLES SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity head, will return here today from the Coast.

•

EDWARD M. SAUNDERS, H. M. RICHEY, JOHN P. BYRNE and HERMAN RIPPS, M-G-M sales executives, are due back in New York today from the Coast, while JOHN J. MALONEY, Central sales manager, will return to his Pittsburgh headquarters.

•

RAY LANNING of *Motion Picture Herald's* editorial staff, and URSULA CONNOR, secretary to TERRY RAMSAYE, *Herald* editor, will be married May 6.

•

JOHN KRIMSKY, formerly manager of Buchanan and Company's motion picture division, has joined the Institute of Public Relations here, in an executive capacity.

•

JAY GOVE, head of M-G-M's sales development division, will return to New York today from a vacation at Nassau.

•

G. S. EYSSELL, president and managing director of Radio City Music Hall here, left New York at the weekend for Hollywood.

•

J. E. CURRIE, manager of National Theatre Supply's drive-in theatre department, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

SOL KLEIN, owner of the Realart Theatre, Baltimore, and MRS. KLEIN are celebrating their 16th wedding anniversary.

•

RUSSELL HOLMAN, Paramount Eastern production head, is due in Hollywood today from New York.

•

JACQUES KOPFSTEIN, Astor Pictures vice-president, has returned to New York from the South.

Proposes Ticket Tax To Aid NYC Finances

ALBANY, N. Y., March 7.—A tax not exceeding 10 cents for admission to any place of amusement or entertainment with a minimum charge of $1 would be authorized for New York City, to be used exclusively for municipally-owned and operated transportation system, under a bill sponsored by Senator Fred Moritt of Brooklyn. It would be one of a series of emergency levies that the city could impose.

E-L Appoints Three

Three Eagle-Lion appointments have been made by William J. Heineman, distribution vice-president. Alex Cooperman has been appointed booker of the Los Angeles exchange. Clarence B. Wilson has been appointed salesman in Dallas, and Benjamin Lander has been appointed head booker and office manager in Minneapolis.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

DAVID O. SELZNICK took a hefty verbal swing at Hollywood's cost system, in the course of covering a wide range of subjects during an informal exchange of views with press representatives in New York late last week.

The studio practice of charging fixed overhead costs uniformly to each and every production is a "false" method of bookkeeping, he said, which transmits its errors to every branch of the industry and to the ticket-buying public. Selznick sees it as a system which, even though fallacious, rules the industry.

Employing as an example a major studio which allocates a 50 per cent overhead charge to every picture it turns out, Selznick asked what justification can there be for the assumption that the charge should be the same for a $500,000 picture as for a $2,000,000 picture?

Yet every picture goes out saddled with that uniform overhead charge, regardless of what studio facilities, materials, executive attentions were or were not utilized by the production. That cost element, Selznick contends, largely affects the handling (including the pricing of the picture) in distribution and in exhibition.

•

Selznick expressed certainty that many important economies are being effected in production, but he is equally certain that labor costs and top star salaries cannot be reduced and, very likely, will be increased. He singled out labor costs as the largest single item in production. The new order of production, he said, will tend to make use of top stars as "box-office insurance" for high cost pictures and the spread in values between such pictures and those made on lower budgets is likely to increase to the point at which the star names will command higher pay.

Theatres, Selznick believes, will be equally responsible in this development by expending the greatest sales effort on the star product and ignoring the lesser product, thus helping to accentuate star value.

Hollywood has engineered some reforms but has not yet corrected enough of its malpractices, Selznick said. He expressed the opinion that it might be "a good thing" for Hollywood if the British market is not restored to the industry immediately, intimating that corrective efforts now in progress would be slackened or abandoned with reopening of the British market.

•

Other Selznick observations: The greatest need of the industry today is showmanship.

If "Best Years of Our Lives" had been made and handled in the "machine method" of the major studios, not having a widely known story or outstanding star names, it would have gone out and returned a $4,000,000 gross. It was Samuel Goldwyn showmanship that made the picture an $8,000,000 grosser.

An exhibitor is a person who makes less money with failures than he does with "hits."

Selznick is apprehensive of television as competition for motion pictures. He is not convinced that the gregarious nature of the average human being is sufficiently strong to make him endure inconveniences and annoyances of theatre attendance when an entertainment equivalent is available in his own home.

It has been many years since Selznick was interested in acquiring control of RKO. The deal might have gone through at that time except for the unwillingness of Floyd Odlum to accept "Gone with the Wind" as part of the terms.

• •

In the kind of market shaping up ever more rapidly in these post-war days, there is less and less room for wishful thinking and a great deal more for aggressive selling and merchandising.

Look around you and note how sales managers are taking to the field—out there where the customer wants to be shown.

The lush days are gone.

The incurable optimist thinks they're gone only for today.

The sterner realist feels safer in concluding they're just gone. The 1948 slant looks ahead to more effort, greater diligence.

At 20th Century-Fox there seems to be an alert appreciation of these latter day requirements. But the appreciation without the product can be pretty futile. At 20th-Fox the feeling is anything but that.

Newsreel Parade

ARTHUR VANDENBERG urging support of the Marshall Plan, King Michael revoking his abdication, and the Heart Fund premiere of "Naked City" are highlights of current newsreels. Sports, fashions and items of general interest round out the reels. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 19—[illegible] Vandenberg urges Marshall Plan t[illegible] another war. Italian pilgrims flock [illegible] of miracle. Bowery derelicts present [illegible] portunity to rehabilitate thems[illegible]. "Naked City" premiere for Heart Fund. Baseball, basketball and ski jumping.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 253—Quick aid to Europe to avert war urged by Arthur Vandenberg. Everglades wonderland explored by cameramen. King Michael reclaims throne. Basketball, ski-jumping.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 56—Basketball. Czech envoy quits. Junior Republicans name Harold E. Stassen and Earl Warren. Earl Long wins in Louisiana. Skiing, baseball.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 123—UN Security Council ponders Palestine crisis. Czech envoy and foreign Hungarian premier protest action of Reds. "Naked City" premiere aids Heart Fund. Basketball. Death mars ski jump tournament.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 58—King Michael revokes abdication. Czech envoy defies Reds. Rare scenes of Everglades wild life. Science makes the perfect pie. Spring fashions in photo finish. Basketball. Great events: U. S. Constitution.

Sees Video Making Films, if Necessary

If Hollywood does not make satisfactory pictures for television, the television industry itself will make them, Frank Mullen, executive vice-president of the National Broadcasting Company, declared here Friday. Mullen, who has just returned from Hollywood, where he conferred with executives of most major studios, however, reported "a great interest" by the film industry in television.

Mullen announced that NBC has called a meeting here March 12 of its 31 affiliated television stations to discuss network arrangements and future television developments.

Regarding his Hollywood talks, Mullen asserted that while some executives were apprehensive about television, most "find in television the best advertising medium they have and it will be utilized by them to promote motion pictures." He placed the industry interest in television in three categories. The first as a medium to advertise feature films; the second was an interest in owning television stations; and the third, the making of product to be sold to television stations.

Mullen declared that television will not interfere with theatre attendance because television will mostly show shorts instead of features.

Mullen predicted that a Pacific Coast network will be operating in 18 months and that there will be coast to coast television by 1950. He also said that Hollywood may become an important talent center for television.

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MORE ABOUT "ALL MY SONS"

WHEN UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL acquired the screen rights to "ALL MY SONS," one of the prime considerations in the production of the motion picture was the casting.

"ALL MY SONS" had been selected as the PRIZE PLAY of 1947 by the New York Drama Critics Circle, and the U-I studio was determined that all the vitality, all the dramatic values which marked the stage presentation should be bettered, if possible, in the screen presentation.

The motion picture trade journal critics have saluted U-I's choice of stars and featured players. They were really hand-picked, and each rose to the very height of his talent.



READ THESE PARAGRAPHS FROM TRADE JOURNAL REVIEWS:

- *"Edward G. Robinson has never given a more impressive performance."* —BOXOFFICE

- *"Performances by an unusually good cast are tops. The players reflect sincerity and believability."* —MOTION PICTURE HERALD

- *"Edward G. Robinson, Burt Lancaster, Mady Christians, Louisa Horton and Howard Duff fill the top roles and give performances which complement each other like well meshed gears in a perfectly running machine."* —MOTION PICTURE DAILY

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL presents

EDWARD G. ROBINSON · BURT LANCASTER

in "ALL MY SONS"

with MADY CHRISTIANS · HOWARD DUFF · LOUISA HORTON
FRANK CONROY · ARLENE FRANCIS · LLOYD GOUGH

A CHESTER ERSKINE PRODUCTION

Written and Produced for the Screen by CHESTER ERSKINE
From the Play by ARTHUR MILLER · Directed by IRVING REIS

Universal International

Production Index Shows 24 Filming

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—This week's production index dipped to 24, compared to 30 of the previous week. Nine films were sent to cutting rooms, while only three new ones were started.

Shooting started on "Rusty Takes a Walk," Columbia; "Isn't It Romantic?," Paramount; "The Wonderful Race at Rimrock," Universal-International.

Shooting finished on "Let's Fall in Love" and "I Surrender Dear," Columbia; "Shed No Tears" (Equity), Eagle-Lion; "Daredevils of the Sky" and "Alcatraz Prison Train," Republic; "The Law and Martin Rome," 20th Century-Fox; "Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid," Universal-International; and "Rope" (Transatlantic), and "One Last Fling," Warner Brothers.

50 Are Named for Charity Campaign

A committee of 50 industry representatives to participate in the 1948 Catholic drive for the Archdiocese of New York was announced here on Friday by John J. O'Connor of Universal-International Pictures and Bert Sanford of Altec Service Corp., chairman and co-chairman, respectively of the entertainment industry division of the drive. The 1948 goal for all industries in the drive is $2,500,000. The drive gets underway immediately.

Known as the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity in the entertainment industry, the committee of 50 includes: Charles A. and John W. Alicoate, Film Daily; William E. Barry, Shea Enterprises; Martin F. Bennett, RCA-Victor; Harry Buckley, United Artists; Frank E. Cabill, Jr., Warner Theatres; Pat Casey; T. J. Connors; James P. Cunningham, *Motion Picture Daily;* G. S. Eyssell, Radio City Music Hall.

Also, Si Fabian, Fabian Theatres; James M. Franey, United World Films; E. C. Grainger, Shea Enterprises; J. R. Grainger, Republic; W. J. Heineman, Eagle-Lion; Al Hovell, Century Circuit; William W. Howard, RKO Theatres; John Kane, Columbia; Austin Keough, Paramount; T. J. Martin, Warner Brothers; Joseph McConville, Columbia; Charles B. McDonald, RKO Theatres; Joseph E. McMahon, Republic; John Murphy, Loew's.

Also: William P. Murphy, Republic; William J. Murray, Hayes Printing; Douglas Netter, Altec; Leon Netter, Paramount Theatres; John Nolan, Comerford Theatres; Paul O'Brien, O'Brien, Driscoll and Raftery; Robert H. O'Brien, Paramount; Thomas F. O'Connor, RKO Theatres; Charles L. O'Reilly, Sanitary Automatic Candy Corp.; E. K. O'Shea, Paramount; P. A. Powers; Martin Quigley; Charles Reagan, Paramount; Phil Reisman, RKO Radio; Herman Robbins, National Screen; W. F. Rodgers, M-G-M; George J. Schaefer, Enterprise; C. J. Scollard, Paramount; William A. Scully, Universal; George Skouras; Spyros Skouras; Skouras Theatres; A. W. Smith, 20th Century-Fox; Nick Tronolone, Pathe Laboratories; Richard F. Walsh; IATSE; William White, Skouras Theatres.



Reviews

"Casbah"

(Universal-International)

PEPE LE MOKO, that romantic lord of the Casbah of Algiers, is back again, Tony Martin assuming the dashing role this time. The suspense drama of the jewel thief who exiled himself to Casbah, has been given a melodious background. With Yvonne DeCarlo sharing histrionic honors with Martin, the pair render several vocal numbers. The vehicle also serves to introduce the Swedish actress, Marta Toren, who, in her American film debut, gets off to an auspicious start. She inevitably will invite comparisons with Ingrid Bergman. Peter Lorre, as a wily and patient detective, rounds out a cast which also includes Katherine Dunham and her dancers. All told, the picture provides satisfyingly good entertainment.

The screenplay, devised by L. Bush-Fekete and Arnold Manoff moves briskly, developing into a cat-and-mouse game, with the detective planning to lure his prey out of the sheltering Casbah. The manner in which this is achieved forms the dramatic hub of the story. To Pepe's detriment, he shifts his affections from Miss DeCarlo to Miss Toren, a Casbah visitor who falls in love with him. It is this new love that Lorre uses as his bait to trap his man. A Marston Production, the dramatic development is nicely balanced with light comedy and musical interludes. The story is based on the novel, "Pepe Le Moko" by Detective Ashelbe.

Running time, 94 minutes. General audience classification. Set for March release.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"The 'Sainted' Sisters"

(Paramount) *Hollywood, March 7*

HERE is a comedy about as different as they come. It has Joan Caulfield and Veronica Lake as a pair of unprincipled young "confidence women," and Barry Fitzgerald as a small-town tombstone sculptor who forces principles upon them, all happening in a Maine hamlet near the Canadian border, in 1896. It depends for laughs upon the period and the place, upon bucolic humor, rustic characterizations, upon incidents which range from electric storms to outright slapstick, and it makes its philosophical point without belaboring it. Novelty of subject, setting and period argues in its favor as a commercial attraction, and might conccivably thrust it up into the surprise hit class.

The Misses Lake and Caulfield are on the lam for Canada by horse and buggy as the picture opens, after having extorted $25,000 from an elderly New Yorker with young ideas, on threat of exposing a certain snapshot. Overtaken by a storm, they find refuge in the ramshackle home of Fitzgerald, who learns the truth about them by artifice and detains them, after taking their money, as house guests and unwilling servants. The girls are eventually won over to his philosophy and pay their debt to society.

Others in the cast are William Demarest, scoring a personal triumph, George Reeves, Beulah Bondi, Darryl Hickman, Jimmy Hunt and Kathryn Card.

Richard Maibaum produced, with William D. Russell directing, from a script by Harry Clork and N. Richard Nash, based on a Mindret Lord adaptation of a story by Alisa Bialk and a play by Miss Bialk and Alden Nash.

Running time, 89 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Another Trust Suit

(Continued from page 1)

and Fred Souttar, St. Louis, district manager of Fox Mid-West.

The bill, filed in Federal District Court at Cape Girardeau, charges the defendants conspired and engaged in monopolistic practices in making first-run pictures available to theatres in Cape Girardeau owned by one of the defendants and have refused to book the pictures into the theatre of the plaintiff.

In addition to $330,000, plus court costs and attorneys fees, the plaintiff asks that the defendants be restrained from continuing the allegedly unlawful trade practices.

The plaintiff is represented by Abe D. Waldauer and Ben C. Adams, Jr., Memphis, and the law firm of Strom and Spradling, Cape Girardeau.

Thomas Goldberg Asks to Be Dismissed from Trust Suit

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Three of nine defendants in a $600,000 anti-trust suit filed here last month by the Windsor Theatre Co., Baltimore, have asked the District Court to dismiss the complaint against them on the ground that they do not do business in the District of Columbia, but in Baltimore. The three are: Walbrook Amusement Co., Hilton Theatre Co., and Thomas D. Goldberg, head of the two companies.

The Windsor charged them and six film distributors with having engaged in a conspiracy since May, 1941, to restrain and injure the Windsor's business.

The distributors have received an extension until March 24 to file their answers to the complaint.

Seeks $1,000,000 Bond

(Continued from page 1)

charged merely with "doing nothing."

Loew's, he said, was not charged in the petition with having granted clearance. McConnell later cited the "Green Dolphin Street" 21-day clearance.

Vincent O'Brien closed his final argument for Warners by stating that it had complied with the decree by offering the Jackson Park every picture it had released. "My Wild Irish Rose" was the only exception because it was a special and stipulated a 21-day clearance. Warner Theatres, he said, only double-featured when the Jackson Park turned down product.

Albert Teyton spoke briefly for John and Barney Balaban, denying any willful attempt to violate the decree. Barney Balaban, he said, knew nothing of the case and was not active in Balaban and Katz.

News Briefs

Paramount to Seek Field Opinions On Improvements in New Product

Plans to visit 52 cities to promote Paramount's "Emperor Waltz" and at the same time to sound out exhibitors and branch personnel on their ideas on product improvements were disclosed here on Friday by Anita Colby, executive assistant to [illegible] Ginsberg, Paramount vice-president and studio executive.

The Technicolor film will have its national release on July 2. It will be shown at regular prices, in line with the belief of Charles Reagan, vice-president and general sales manager, that "this is not the time for advanced admissions."

Miss Colby will cover all of the country except the West. Her activities will also include the arrangement of charity balls in a tieup with the Damon Runyon cancer fund and arrange talks before different groups and make personal contact with newspaper editors and broadcasters.

WB Zone Ad Managers Open 2-Day Meeting Here Today

A two-day meeting of Warner Theatres zone advertising managers will begin here today at the company's home office. Discussed will be campaigns on "To the Victor," "The Woman in White" and "Silver River." Present from the home office will be: Harry Kalmine, president and general manager, Warner Theatres; Ben Kalmenson, distribution vice-president; Mort Blumenstock, advertising-publicity head, and Harry Goldberg, theatre advertising and publicity director.

Zone men attending will be: J. Knox Strachan, Cleveland; Dan Finn, New Haven; George Kelly, Newark; Charles Smakwitz, Albany; Everett C. Callow, Philadelphia; James Totman, Pittsburgh; Frank LaFalce, Washington; Harry MacDonald, Milwaukee; Irving Windisch, New York. Ben Wallerstein is expected from Hollywood.

"Buddy" Rogers Back As an Actor In Nasser Film After Eight Years

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Producer Charles (Buddy) Rogers will return to the screen after eight years to play the top role in James Nasser's "An Innocent Affair," which starts March 15 at a budget of $1,500,000 for United Artists release. Rogers, who produced "Sleep, My Love," will resume as head of Triangle Productions following completion of the acting commitment.

FM Station for M-G-M

HOLLYWOOD, March 7. — Establishment of a frequency modulation station in Beverly Hills, with operations planned to start in May, was announced by M-G-M.

SRO Building Plans Set

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Architectural plans for the new home offices of the Selznick Releasing Organization in Beverly Hills have been completed by J. McMillan Johnson, Selznick's production designer. Neil Agnew, president of SRO, will approve the final plans during his current stay here. Company's home office is now in New York.

Foreign Film Club

Establishment of the Foreign Films Club, which will publish a foreign film fan magazine, is planned by Arthur Davis, president of Arthur Davis Associates, here.

U. S. Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

blocked film currencies would be exchanged.

Now, however, the department is down to two solutions: outright purchase of books, magazines, films and similar media for use in United States Information Service posts abroad as part of the regular overseas information program, expanded by passage of the Smith-Mundt Act and pending appropriations; and a limited contractual relation with those commercial companies that could not be helped by outright purchase.

How Plan Would Apply

This would work out, very roughly, as follows: Company X would tell the Department it will cost 30,000 zlotys to distribute six films in Poland during 1948. Under contract, the company will distribute three films, and the Government will give Company X the dollar equivalent and receive from the company the blocked zlotys. All over 30,000, which represents Company X's profit, will remain blocked in Poland to Company X's account.

The new plan would not in any way affect balances already accumulated overseas—these are apparently a dead issue as far as U. S. Government aid is concerned.

Two serious problems remain to be solved on this contractual scheme, Department officials admit: one is how this would work out in particular cases—would the contract have to be any different for shorts and features, or for black-and-white films and Technicolor ones, for instance; second, and most important, is how much would it cost.

Sums to aid private industry in overseas financial problems have been omitted from current appropriation requests, and would have to be submitted in a supplemental budget. The House Appropriations Committee has already cut the $34,000,000 requested by the President for the information program to $28,000,000.

Indicate $60,000,000 Tied Up

Department officials have indicated that figures received so far from the "information" industries indicate that they are requesting Government aid to the tune of a "staggering" $60,000,000 a year—with the film industry accounting for better than half. This will have to be pared down considerably, they state, before going to Congress, and paring down means more detailed figures than have been submitted so far.

Rank on Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

British pictures would be aided thereby and because restrictions on a reasonably free flow of films is undesirable for everybody.

However, Rank said, those who have suggested that the whole British industry is now in bad shape are talking nonsense. "Attendance during December, January and February at my theatres," he said, "was 4.7 per cent higher than for the same period in the previous year." He added there is no cause for gloom.

Rank is taking to America details on the 24 pictures which he has in preparation, including "Hamlet." He added that Rank Organization production is increasing and its costs are decreasing.

Walsh Denies

(*Continued from page* 1)

and Willie Bioff exerted influence in the affairs of the IATSE."

In a telegram sent to Rep. Carroll D. Kearns, chairman of the House Labor sub-committee investigating the studio jurisdictional situation, Walsh also declared that he will come to Washington this week "to enter a personal denial under oath."

Uncertain If Charge Was Made

Both IATSE and CSU representatives here, however, were uncertain on Friday as to whether Sorrell had actually charged Walsh—and IATSE international representative Roy Brewer—with having accepted money from the producers.

Questioned about whether he had made the charge, Sorrell said, "See what it says in the record." A check of the previous day's testimony revealed, however, that Sorrell's statements were ambiguous. Nor did Sorrell or CSU attorney George Bodle indicate whether the situation would be cleared up subsequently.

Hearings recessed on Friday until Tuesday after Sorrell again was on the stand. Sorrell told the committee that he had "enough evidence to prove criminal conspiracy between top officials of the IATSE and certain major producers" but added that he wanted to take his time and "build it up slowly."

Hits Attack as 'Diversion'

Walsh, in his telegram, declared that "Sorrell's charge, unproved and unprovable, and made under the cloak of Congressional immunity, was obviously launched for the purpose of diverting public attention from the sordid tale of his lawless career and pro-Communist activities. . . ."

Kearns also read into the record a telegram from the business agent of the Independent Make-up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild, purporting to refute a statement made by Motion Picture Association of America attorney Maurice Benjamin to the effect that for some time studios have been hiring union and non-union labor without discrimination. The telegram said that IATSE Local No. 705 had threatened producers with a work stoppage if any member of the independent union were hired.

Kearns also disclosed that the Communist Party card alleged to be Sorrell's had been turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for fingerprint analysis.

Lessing Denies Disney Used Terror Tactics in Strike

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Walt Disney Production's vice-president Gunther Lessing at the weekend issued a statement categorically denying Herbert Sorrell's testimony in Washington linking his studio with "torpedoes and dynamiters" during the Disney strike. Lessing said: "Our only contact with Bioff (William Bioff) was to be reassured by him that projectionists in theatres throughout the country would continue to run Disney pictures. Sorrell was endeavoring to bring about a secondary boycott of Disney films by projectionists."

Import Firm Formed

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.— Creative Films has been organized here to import motion pictures. It is headed by A. S. Weiner, Texas business man.

'306', Circuits Agree

(*Continued from page* 1)

work week, and over the $95.10 base pay which the affiliated's Broadway first-run projectionists receive for a 22½-hour work week. The neighborhood projectionists get $4.08 per hour now, with time-and-a-half for overtime. Broadway projectionists get $4.22½ per hour now, with double time for overtime. The new agreement provides an hourly wage increase of 41 cents in the neighborhoods and 64 cents in the Broadway area.

'306' to Draft Clauses

Under the agreement, "306" will draw up a contract which will include, in addition to the 15 per cent pay increase, certain "mutually satisfactory" working-condition clauses. The strike threat was raised by the local earlier in the week after the companies had presented a contract containing working-conditions clauses which the "306" membership found objectionable.

A spokesman for the companies said a prime condition of the agreement was that alleged "sabotaging" by projectionists in a number of RKO and Loew's theatres be stopped immediately. According to reports, projectionists in many of those companies' neighborhood houses, ran films upside down, caused weird wails to emanate from the sound equipment and harassed the audiences in other ways in protest against the terms offered by the employers.

Union to Vote This Week

The "306" membership will meet here this week—probably on Wednesday—to ratify the agreement, a spokesman for the local said. Meanwhile, the pay increase agreed upon will not go into effect until the contract is signed at a meeting which is expected to be attended by "IA" international president Richard F. Walsh. Walsh, due back in New York today from a Pittsburgh "IA" board meeting, did not grant the strike authorization request which "306" president Herman Gelber asked for last week.

Other affiliated theatres involved in the negotiations were Paramount, Warners, Universal and United Artists.

Producers Should Pay Ascap: Weisman

The oft-heard argument that producers should be made to pay the Ascap music tax, then pass it on to exhibitors, was repeated on Friday by Milton C. Weisman, counsel for the plaintiffs, as the monopoly action brought by Alden-Rochelle, Inc., and 160 other members of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York against the Society went into its second day before Judge Vincent L. Liebel in U. S. District Court here.

The proposal was advanced by Weisman during the presentation of documentary evidence in the form of cue sheets purportedly showing that almost every picture produced by major companies contained Ascap music.

First two witnesses called by Weisman were: Joseph R. Vogel, Loew's theatre vice-president, and Herman Starr, Warner vice-president. Vogel testified that theatres are unable to operate without the product of major distributors. Starr testified briefly and will resume today.

Allied-Ascap

(*Continued from page* 1)

the schedule would prevail for a minimum of 10 years, but that licensees could take contracts for any shorter period they wished and still be assured of no increase during the next 10 years.

Allied States, however, is backing the Lewis Bill in Congress, which would make a "hidden" tax of the Ascap theatre fee by requiring producers to clear music performing rights with the Society before licensing a picture. Producers, of course, then would add the music tax to the film rental and probably add licensing service and bookkeeping fees also.

Hearings on the Lewis bill are scheduled to start on March 22 in Washington. Allied hopes either for enactment of the bill or final adjudication of one of several court actions pending against Ascap.



AN EXPLOSION OF LAUGHTER

In the Greatest Double Laugh Show in Years!

BOOKED OVER THE LOEW CIRCUIT

A LAFF KNOCKOUT

Here is the FIGHT GAME at its FUNNIEST!

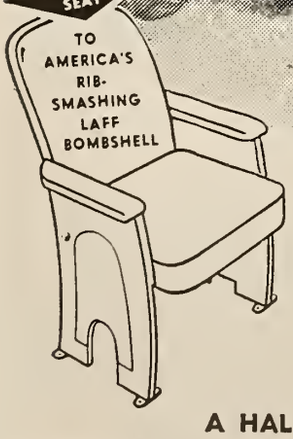
All Direct Body BLOWS, Each UPPERCUT goes Right to your FUNNYBONE!

Favorite Films presents

KELLY the SECOND



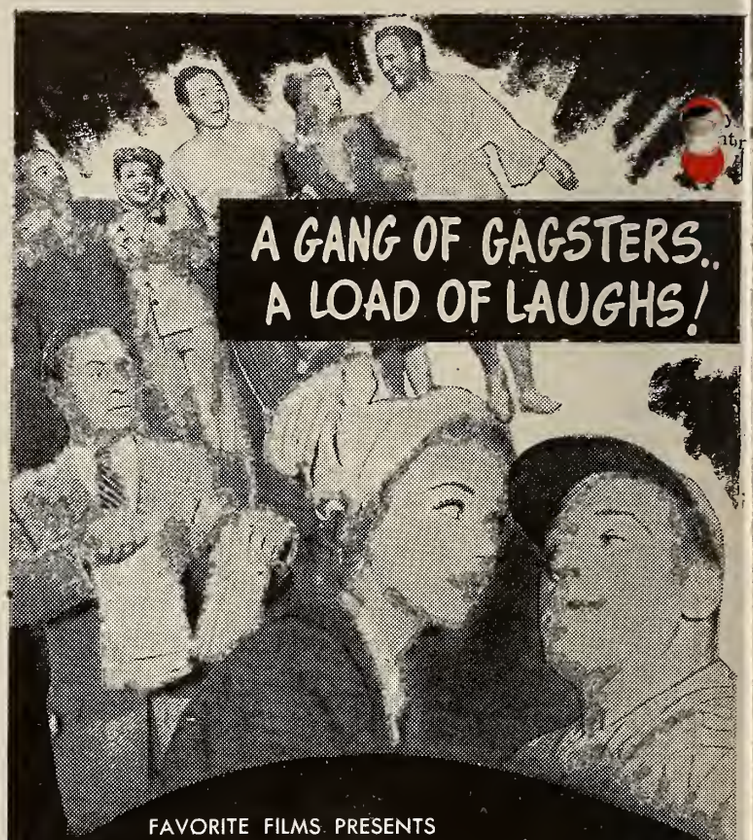
A RINGSIDE SEAT TO AMERICA'S RIB-SMASHING LAFF BOMBSHELL



"SLAPSIE" MAXIE
ROSENBLOOM
PATSY
KELLY
GUINN
"BIG BOY" WILLIAMS
HAROLD HUBER
BILLY GILBERT

A HAL ROACH PRODUCTION

FAVORITE FILMS CORPORATION
MOE KERMAN, Pres.
630-9th AVENUE, N. Y. C.



FAVORITE FILMS PRESENTS
WILLIAM BENDIX
MAX BAER
in
TWO MUGS FROM BROOKLYN



WITH
LEO DUROCHER
AND
DEM BROOKLYN BUMS
A HAL ROACH PRODUCTION

FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 46 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1948 TEN CENTS

Dallas Trust Suit Dismissed By U. S. Court

Decision from Bench Is Conspiracy Not Proved

DALLAS, March 8.—In a case patterned along the lines of the Jackson Park Theatre anti-trust suit in Chicago, Federal Court Judge William H. Atwell has dismissed the action brought by B. R. McLendon against the eight major distributors and the Robb and Rowley and Interstate circuits, charging them with conspiracy to control first and subsequent runs in Dallas and suburbs.

Judge Atwell, announcing his decision from the bench immediately upon conclusion of the trial, held that the evidence pre-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Allied Units Seek 30-Day Ascap Pacts

While accepting the new Ascap theatre rates which become effective next Monday, Allied States members for the most part will endeavor to obtain music licenses on a month-to-month basis, in lieu of signing new contracts with Ascap, it was learned yesterday.

Allied regional units are advising their members to follow this procedure and, in addition, to make the payments "under protest." Some exhibitors, however, said they would make one-year contracts with Ascap to simplify their accounts and to avoid bother. Allied members have been advised to make no contracts with Ascap for longer than a year, in any event.

While exhibitors appear to be skeptical of either legislative or court re-

(*Continued on page 7*)

TOA Asks Voice In Public Relations

LOS ANGELES, March 8.—A "positive aggressive" program for giving exhibition its rightful share of control over the motion picture industry's public relations and publicity will be set up during the Theatre Owners of America's two-day session which opens tomorrow at the Ambassador Hotel here, Ted Gamble, president, declared today.

Pointing out that widespread news-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Firemen Bill Debate Today

ALBANY, N. Y., March 8.—The Fino-Clancy bill, which would authorize any city fire commissioner in the state to assign at least two uniformed firemen to every theatrical or screen performance in the state at fees of $10 a man for each show, may fail to pass at this session of the legislature as a result of a burst of organized exhibitor opposition which swept across the state at the weekend. After a third calendar reading tonight, the measure was put over until tomorrow's Assembly and Senate meeting.

Orin Judd and Murray Gurfein, attorneys for the New York Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association, sent here today by various New York City exhibitor organizations which had joined forces to fight the bill, were said to have been assured that the Fino-Clancy measure would be tabled in both houses of the legislature pending consideration of an amendment which would remove what was described as the prospect of financial ruin for many theatres.

Oscar A. Doob, chairman of the

(*Continued on page 6*)

Roscoe, Williamson Shifted by Columbia

George Roscoe, Columbia's Charlotte manager, has been named manager of the Atlanta exchange, with R. D. Williamson, Charlotte salesman, named to succeed him in Charlotte, the company disclosed here yesterday. Both assume their new duties immediately, under the supervision of R. J. Ingram, Southeastern district manager.

UK OPTIMISTIC OF TAX PLAN TODAY

'City' Huge, Others Off

"The Naked City," with Tex Beneke's orchestra on stage at New York's Capitol Theatre, stands out as a sensational combination in a week of generally mild business at Broadway's first-runs. An all-day rainfall on Sunday cut sharply the week's expectations at the majority of houses.

Capitol's first week is heading for a phenomenal $145,000, exclusive of what was taken in at a pre-opening benefit performance. A number of gross records are expected to be made at the Capitol before the week is out.

Two new pictures will bow in this week: "I Remember Mama," plus an Easter stage presentation, is due at Radio City Music Hall on Thursday, and "Sitting Pretty" is scheduled to move in at the Roxy tomorrow. Third and final week of "A Double Life," together with Russell Markert's stage show, is expected to be a relatively mild one at the Hall with $110,000 seen. Likewise unimpressive is the third and final week of "Call Northside 777," plus a stage bill topped by Hazel Scott, which will bring in only $71,000.

Second week of "Albuquerque" at the Victoria is expected to be a pretty good one, with $12,000 in view. "Black Bart" started off fairly strong at the

(*Continued on page 6*)

But Johnston Still Is Noncommittal, Though Addressing CEA Tonight

LONDON, March 8.—Board of Trade officials expressed the belief that a "happy conclusion" of the efforts to reach a compromise on Britain's 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax will issue tomorrow.

The statement was made as they left a negotiating meeting that had continued throughout the day and ended at nine P.M. tonight.

Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, was less positive, however. Johnston said merely that no formula has yet been devised for the disposition of the unremittable balances of American film earnings here. Presumably, that means all over $16,000,000, the amount repeatedly referred to by government officials as the maximum that Britain can afford to pay for films in 1948.

The negotiations will be resumed at noon tomorrow.

Johnston, who hitherto was reluct-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Sees Restrictions Lasting 4 to 5 Years

The Australian News Bureau, official Australian government information agency here, declared yesterday that latest advices from overseas indicate that the dollar situation is further deteriorating, quoting that country's Prime Minister Joseph B. Chifley as follows:

"The situation is becoming so serious that dollar restrictions will be necessary for at least four or five

(*Continued on page 3*)

Yates Appeals For Material Economy

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—Predicting that the next six months shall be the crisis period in the industry, and that if the industry can survive it will be rewarded by a much better future, Herbert J. Yates, president of Republic, climaxed a series of studio meetings here by addressing the company's

(*Continued on page 3*)

"I Remember Mama"

[*RKO Radio*] - A Motion Picture with a Heart of Gold

Hollywood, March 8

ALL that you have read and heard about this picture is understatement. It is everything its sponsors have said it is and a great deal more. It is a picture to set house records of both kinds—the dollar kind and the audience satisfaction kind—in the biggest theatres and the littlest theatres in all the cities and towns and villages. And it is not especially necessary that its sponsors or its exhibitors succeed in fabricating advertising copy eloquent enough to describe its merits, because everybody in the world is going to find out about them before the first print sent through a first-run projector is cool in the can.

Your reporter is no more competent to tell you how good this picture is than the others who have tried to do so, and therefore shall not try. He will mention that it is a simple story about a small family living in San Francisco in 1910 and that it is made up of small and more or less ordinary incidents, and that every man, woman and child who ever had a mother, father, son or daughter is going to move right into that small family circle and live as a member of it through the two hours and 17 minutes of the film's all-too-short running time. He will not risk

(*Continued on page 6*)

Personal Mention

JULES LEVEY, producer, will sail from New York on the *SS Amsterdam* on March 16 for Europe.

•

ED GRIGSBY, of the Altec Lansing sales staff in Hollywood, has been elected to the board of directors of the West Coast Electronic Manufacturers Association. He has also been elected secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles council of the organization.

•

THEODORE R. KUPFERMAN of the Warner legal department here, has been appointed law secretary to JUSTICE PECK, presiding justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, First Department.

•

FRANK C. WALKER, Comerford Theatres executive and wartime Postmaster General, has been awarded the Laetere Medal for 1948 by the University of Notre Dame.

•

R. C. (RUDY) KNEUER, assistant manager of National Theatre Supply's projection equipment department, has joined the NTS drive-in theatre department as assistant to J. E. CURRIE.

•

JOSEPH I. BREEN, Production Code Administrator, has resumed his post in Hollywood after a three-month vacation cruise.

•

GEORGE STEVENS, producer-director, and HARRIET PARSONS, producer, are due here this week from the Coast.

•

STANLEY HAND, Nu-Screen general sales manager, will leave New York today for a trip through the South.

•

BETTY KRONE, secretary to Columbia assistant general sales manager RUBE JACKTER, has become engaged to BERNARD G. UNGER.

•

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, 20th Century-Fox vice-president and Eastern representative, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

DON SWARTZ, head of Independent Film Distributors, left Minneapolis yesterday for New York.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's Theatres executive, burned his hand as the result of a short circuit at his home.

•

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew's vice-president and treasurer, will leave Hollywood Friday for New York.

•

ROBERT SISK, M-G-M producer, is visiting Chicago, Lansing and Cleveland this week from Hollywood.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic distribution chief, has left San Francisco for Chicago and New York.

•

LEON LEONIDOFF, senior producer of Radio City Music Hall, has returned here from Florida.

News Briefs . . .

TESMA Convention to be Held In St. Louis Sept. 28-30

CHICAGO, March 8.—Preliminary arrangements have been completed for the 1948 national trade show and convention of the Theatre Equipment and Supply Manufacturers Association, which will be held Sept. 28-30 at the Jefferson Hotel, St. Louis, Roy Boomer, secretary, has announced here. The supply dealers, as has been the custom in the past few years, will hold their meeting in conjunction with TESMA.

Blumenstock Conducts Two-Day WB Merchandising Meet Here

Mort Blumenstock, Warners' vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity, discussed merchandising plans on the company's "To the Victor," at a home office meeting with theatre zone advertising managers yesterday. Blumenstock also presented the department's plans for presenting its new Swedish star, Miss Lindfors, who makes her American film debut in this picture.

Harry Kalmine, Ben Kalmenson and Harry Goldberg also addressed the meeting which will end tonight with discussion on advertising for "The Woman in White" and "Silver River". The managers will return to their respective territories tomorrow.

Edward Shafton Resigns as Goldberg's General Manager

OMAHA, March 8.—Edward Shafton has resigned as general manager and counsel for R. D. Goldberg Theatres. He will return to private law practice.

Ken Seymour, formerly with radio station KOAD, has joined the Goldberg staff as assistant in public relations and advertising.

Pollak, Formerly of RKO, to WPIX

James S. Pollak, former Hollywood film executive, has joined WPIX, *The Daily News* television station, here, to assist Harvey Marlowe, program director, in establishing a feature film department. Before entering the Army, in 1943, he was an RKO Radio producer-director in Hollywood.

$27,153 to 'Dimes' from Jenkins

ATLANTA, March 8.—William K. Jenkins, Atlanta, president of Georgia Theatres, has turned over to the Georgia chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, a check for $27,153, collected by that circuit's theatres in the 1948 March of Dimes.

MOT to Revise Czech Film

The Communist coup in Czechoslovakia has caused the March of Time Forum Edition to cancel all laboratory orders on its new "Czechoslovakia." Footage to cover the revolt will be added and an entirely new treatment will be made. Tentative release date is now April 15.

Skouras, de Rochemont, DeBra To Address Boston University

BOSTON, March 8.—Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox; Louis de Rochemont, producer, and Arthur H. DeBra, director of community service of the Motion Picture Association of America, will compose a panel on motion pictures which will feature Boston University's fifth annual Founders' Day Institute, March 12-13.

"Great Expectations," Peck, Russell Win NYU Film Club's Citations

Annual film awards of the Motion Picture Club of New York University have gone to "Great Expectations" as the best picture, and Gregory Peck and Rosalind Russell as best actor and actress respectively.

"Shoe Shine" was cited as the best foreign picture. Richard Widmark and Celeste Holm were cited as the most promising actor and actress. Citations also went to Elia Kazan, best director; "Dear Ruth," best comedy and "The Fugitive," best photography. Special awards went to J. Arthur Rank, Edmund Gwenn, Dudley Nichols and Darryl Zanuck.

$838,000 Theatre for N. Y. Life's Flushing Project

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The New York Life Insurance Co. told the Office of the Housing Expediter that it could build an $838,000 theatre in its new 3,000-unit housing project in Flushing, N. Y., the income from the theatre allowing it to cut rents from $1 to $1.50 per room per month. The theatre was approved by the OHE on grounds of "community essentiality."

Another project approved was a $100,000 theatre for Heater Enterprises in Nebraska City, Neb.

Heineman Reshuffles Heiber's Eagle-Lion Midwest District

William J. Heineman, Eagle-Lion vice-president in charge of distribution, has set the sales territory supervised by Edward Heiber, North-Central district manager, to comprise Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

William Feld has been named Eagle-Lion branch manager in St. Louis, by William J. Heineman, distribution vice-president.

Frenke Opens Story Office Here

Opening of a New York story-purchase office has been announced by Eugene Frenke, president of United California Productions, currently producing the tentatively-titled "Let's Live a Little," to be an Eagle-Lion release, starring Hedy Lamarr and Robert Cummings, as the first of a program of four features a year.

The New York branch will be called Discovery, Inc.

Arkansas Owners to Meet

ATLANTA, March 8.—The Arkansas-Independent Theatres Owners will hold its meeting on May 4-5.

Murrow, 2 Stations Win DuPont Awards

Sixth annual awards of the Alfred I. DuPont Radio Foundation were presented to Edward R. Murrow and radio stations WFIL, Philadelphia, and WBBM, Chicago, at ceremonies at the St. Regis Hotel here last night.

Murrow, news analyst for Columbia Broadcasting, received the commentator's award. He also won the "Best News Commentator" classification of the 12th annual radio poll conducted by MOTION PICTURE DAILY for *Fame*, last December.

Mark Woods, president of American Broadcasting presided last night, and the presentations were made Dr. Francis P. Gaines, president of Washington and Lee University, and chairman of the awards committee. Among those on the awards committee with Dr. Gaines are M. H. Aylesworth and William H. Goodman.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
RONALD COLMAN
"A DOUBLE LIFE"
SIGNE HASSO - EDMOND O'BRIEN
A Kanin Production
A Universal-International Release
• Spectacular Stage Presentation •

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD TO RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR
B'way at 45th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You Knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

LILLI PALMER
SAM WANAMAKER
"My Girl Tisa"
IN PERSON
VAUGHN MONROE AND HIS ORCHESTRA
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9:15 A.M. LATE FILM AT MIDNIGHT
LATE STAGE SHOW 10:30 P.M. B'WAY AT 47th

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Link Higher Rentals, Shorter Clearances

MINNEAPOLIS, March 8. — High pressure from opponents to the plan may well have precluded shortened clearance for Twin Cities deluxe neighborhood stands.

What seemed like a "tough" demand on major distributors a month ago, when the Frank and Woempner circuit served a 21-day clearance demand for the Boulevards, Minneapolis, and West Twins, St. Paul, now seems like "a hot potato" in the hands of the independent exhibitors themselves as they see mounting film rentals in any shortened clearance.

It is learned that local managers for major companies receiving the Frank and Woempner demand recommend that clearance be lowered "if the benefiting houses are willing to pay increased film rentals in proportion" to the advancement of clearance. This information evidently was relayed to the independent exhibitors resulting in a majority siding against disturbing present clearance arrangements in the two cities.

The companies receiving the F. and W. clearance demand have made no reply, but MGM is understood to have made it known that a plan has been under consideration to lower deluxe stand clearances from 56 to 42 days, "with a corresponding increase in rental terms."

Heart Attack Kills Ekerman in Brazil

A heart attack on Friday brought death to I. Ekerman, correspondent for Quigley Publications in Brazil and reputedly that country's leading theatre supply dealer, according to word received here yesterday from Sao Paulo.

Ekerman also represented National Theatre Supply in Brazil. He held various Columbia Pictures posts in Latin America from 1935 to 1945. When he left the company he was manager of the Sao Paulo office.

Surviving are the widow, Rosa, and a son, Raoul.

John Benas, Booker For Skouras Circuit

John M. Benas, well known in Metropolitan New York film circles as film booker for Skouras Theatres, died here on Sunday. The remains are reposing at the Frank E. Campbell 81st Street Funeral Church, from where the funeral cortege will move Wednesday afternoon to the East 74th Street Greek Cathedral.

Surviving are the widow, Corinne Stephanidis and two daughters, Virginia P. Constantine and Flora Wanda.

John M. Benas

DIED

on March 7, 1948, beloved husband of Corrine Stephanidis Benas, father of Virginia P. Constantine and Flora Wanda Benas, son of Virginia Benas and the late Dimitrios Benas, brother of Mrs. Flora J. Stephanidis. Reposing at Frank E. Campbell "The Funeral Church," Inc., Madison Ave. at 81st St. Services at Greek Cathedral, 319 East 74th St., Wednesday, March 10, at 2 P. M.

FBI Returns 'Red' Card, Unanalyzed

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has informed the House Labor subcommittee, which has been conducting an investigation of the Coast jurisdictional dispute, that the Communist Party membership card allegedly belonging to Herbert K. Sorrell, head of the Conference of Studio Unions, cannot be analyzed for fingerprints after 10 years. The FBI returned the card to the House unit.

Sorrell will return to the witness stand tomorrow when the Congressional subcommittee's probe will be resumed.

463 Players Under Contract, Down 279

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—Screen Actors Guild executive secretary John Dales, Jr., released the results of an official check on SAG membership, showing 463 players under studio contract March 1, compared with 742 a year ago. Dales added "unquestionably there has been a still greater decrease in the employment of free-lance players."

Yates Appeals

(*Continued from page* 1)

contract producers and directors.

Yates urged them to study and follow the methods of the mechanical operating departments at Republic which during the past year, have eliminated "thousands of dollars of extraneous expense without impairing efficiency or quality."

Yates pointed out that "developments with which all are familiar have caused the business to become a virtual domestic enterprise. Producers, directors and creators must deliver pictures within the pattern of today's market and not the boom period of the past seven years."

Sees Restrictions

(*Continued from page* 1)

years. Even with the help of the Marshall Plan, Britain will have a long fight to overcome her financial crisis. It is up to Australia to do everything possible to help Britain, even to the extent of imposing greater restrictions on imports from the dollar countries if necessary. Dollar expenditure will have to be kept to a minimum in Australia for a long time."

Services Today for David Rosengarten

MIAMI BEACH, March 8.—David Rosengarten, 65, of New York, former chairman of the New York Film Board of Trade, died here last Friday. He had been in film distribution in New York for more than 25 years. Rosengarten was born in Germany and was brought to New York when he was two. He had been New York manager of Fox Film and of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. His death was attributed to heart disease. The widow, Mrs. Anna Rosengarten; two sons, Alfred and Leonard; two sisters, Mrs. Clara Neusteter and Mrs. Hannah Koenig, and a grandson survive.

Funeral services will be held here today at Riverside Memorial Chapel. Interment will be at Mt. Hebron, Long Island.

200 Export Licenses To Films in 1st Week

Washington, March 8.—Some 200 general consolidated licenses were granted to film companies during the first week of the Government's new export licensing policy, according to Nathan Golden, chief of the Department of Commerce's motion picture and photographic section. The licenses cover shipments to Europe through June. Everyone is satisfied with the way the system is operating, Golden said.

U. K. Talks

(*Continued from page* 1)

ant to definitely accept an invitation to attend the annual meeting and party of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association at Grosvenor House tomorrow night before he was confident that a settlement of the film tax was at least a reasonable possibility, will be at the affair and has agreed to address the gathering.

BOT Head to Speak

Another CEA party speaker will be Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade. Prior to the party, CEA officers will entertain Johnston, Wilson, James Mulvey, Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers representative, and Allen Dulles, MPAA foreign affairs adviser, at a private dinner.

Johnston spent a busy weekend meeting and consulting with non-governmental but influential personalities. He went to Oxford accompanied by Nicholas Davenport, an economist of standing here, who also is Sir Alexander Korda's chief adviser. He met with leading educational figures, including Lionel Curtis, an authority on Commonwealth affairs, and a friend of Dulles.

Johnston also conferred with Sir Oliver Franks, Britain's Ambassador-designate to the United States. Later he had a long talk with Lord Vansittart, former Foreign Office chief and now a leading unofficial authority on foreign affairs, at the latter's home in Denham.

Today's Session 'Crucial'

It is generally conceded that tomorrow's talks will be crucial. Both British and American quarters almost fearfully express the hope that the difficult attitude of the Cabinet section will not wreck setttlement.

It has been ascertained that the report of the negotiators' committee of experts, presented last week, shows a clear way out of the impasse. Also, Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin's determined stand for a settlement contribute to the extreme pressure being brought to bear on the negotiations.

Likewise, the critical effect of the film tax on independent production here is undermining the confidence of private investors to the point at which it is now widely believed that whether or not a settlement is reached, there is no hope for independent production except through state financing.

Wm. Selwyn to Goldwyn

HOLLYWOOD, March 8. — Samuel Goldwyn has engaged William Selwyn as executive talent director.

Dallas Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

sented by the McLendon interests, doing business as Tri-State Theatres, had failed to support charges of conspiracy to prevent the plaintiffs from obtaining product for exhibition on the same terms as Interstate and Robb and Rowley. He ruled the McLendons were not entitled to an injunction and ordered a judgment in favor of all defendants.

Suing for treble damages of $1,200,000, the plaintiffs claimed that unreasonable clearance granted the defendant circuits' theatres had resulted in a loss of $100,000 profits for each of their two houses involved in the action, the Casa Linda and the Beverly Hills, both in Dallas, and had forced them to dispose of the latter property at a price $200,000 below its full worth. The suit was filed on Sept. 17, 1947.

Fact-Finding, Judgment Due

No written decision was made by the court, which will now make special findings of fact and conclusions of law and enter a judgment in the case.

The decision was the reverse of that in the Chicago Jackson Park Theatre action, but it does not affect the Chicago case. On the other hand, the ruling in the Dallas suit can be used as a precedent bearing on other pending industry-anti-trust cases, it is believed.

George Wright of the Dallas law firm of Thompson, Knight, Harris, Wright and Weisberg was counsel for the distributors. Worsham, Worsham and Riley, also of Dallas, represented Interstate, while L. M. Rice defended Robb and Rowley.

McConnell Prepared Complaint

Thomas C. McConnell of Chicago, who was counsel for the plaintiff in the Jackson Park Theatre case, was attorney of record for the McLendons. It was he who prepared the complaint and took depositions in behalf of the plaintiffs. Although McConnell could not appear in court because he was engaged in contempt citation hearings in the Jackson Park case, he advised Dick Holt, of the Dallas law firm of Clark, Coon, Holt and Fisher, by telephone from Chicago during the trial. The latter firm is headed by the brother of Attorney General Tom Clark.

McLendons Seen Planning Appeal

CHICAGO, March 8.—Thomas C. McConnell, counsel for the McLendons, said here today that, while he had not had an opportunity to speak to his clients, he was sure they would appeal the decision of Judge Atwell.

Chicago Liberty Hearing Extended

CHICAGO, March 8.—Hearing on the Liberty Theatre anti-trust suit against the Manta Rose circuit and major distributors and small independent companies has been extended to March 15 in U. S. District Court.

"Dolphin' in Chicago Subsequents

CHICAGO, March 8.—"Green Dolphin Street" will play day-and-date March 12 in 10 outlying theatres for its first subsequent-run showing here since it played the Loop. This is the first M-G-M picture sold to the Chicago neighborhoods since the Jackson Park decree.

The Boxoffice Bells Are R

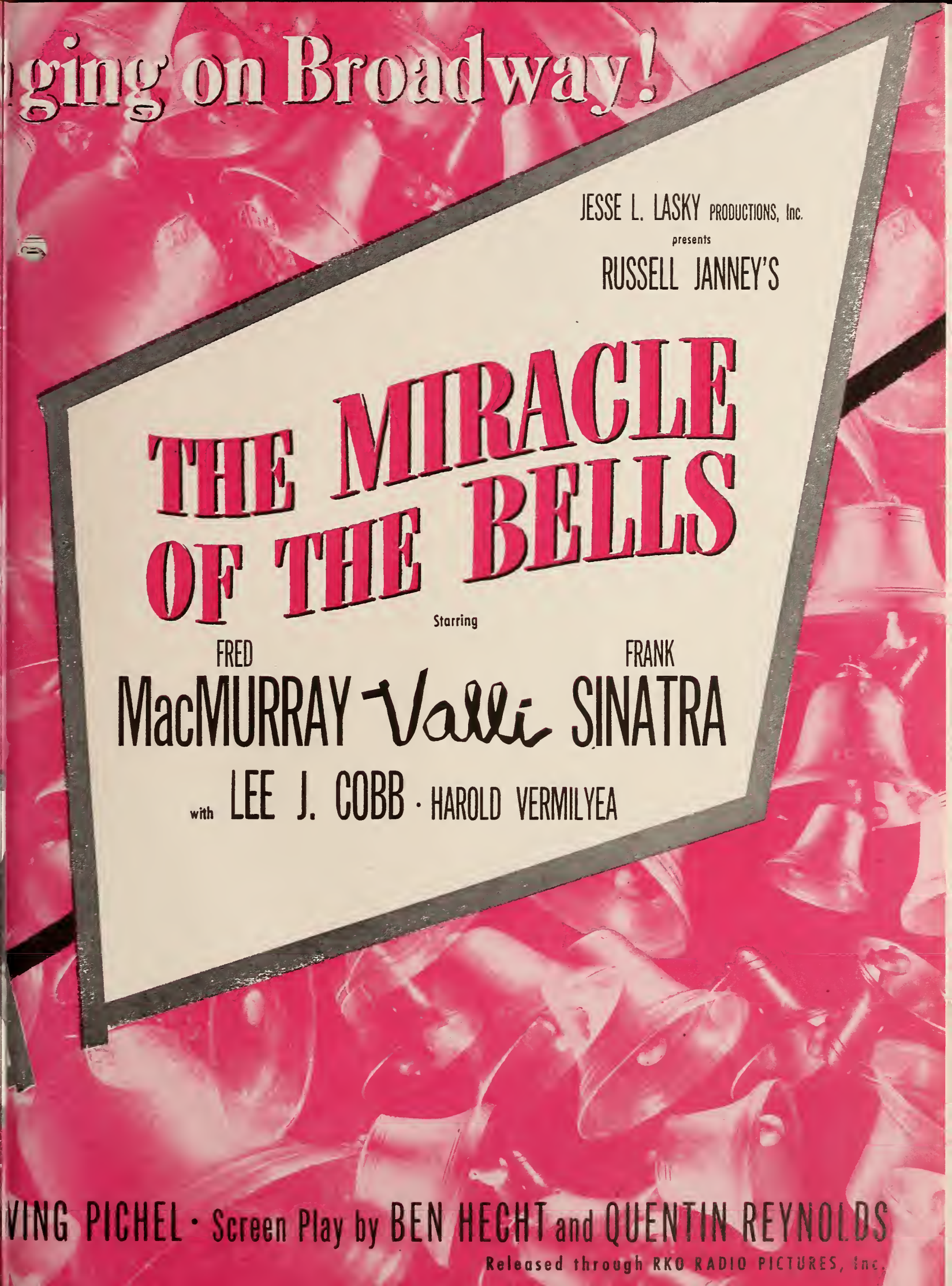
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Coming Events

Today and Tomorrow — Theatre Owners of America officers and directors meeting Hotel Ambassador, Los Angeles.

March 13—Associated Theatre Poster Exchanges meeting, Chicago.

March 22-23—North Central Allied annual convention, Minneapolis.

April 5-8—Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners convention, San Francisco.

April 12-17—International Variety Clubs 1948 convention, Roney Plaza Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla.

May 7-8 — Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa and Nebraska convention, Des Moines, Ia.

Omaha Closes Theatre

OMAHA, March 8.—The fire department has shut down the Cass Theatre, at least until repairs are made. Millard and Lawrence Krasne of Council Bluffs own the house.



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"I Remember Mama"

(Continued from page 1)

marring it by retelling the story of the family's experiences, but will venture the assurance that no one who shares those experiences by sitting in will wish that they were different than they are.

No mere listing of the names of the players responsible for the finest group performance in ready memory can convey an adequate impression of its aggregate effectiveness. Irene Dunn's portrayal of the mother is fine beyond description. Oscar Homolka's delineation of the uncle is an achievement. And no member of the cast—Barbara Bel Geddes, Philip Dorn, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Edgar Bergen, Rudy Vallee, Barbara O'Neil, Florence Bates, Peggy McIntyre, June Hedin, Steve Brown, Ellen Corby, Hope Landin, Edith Evanson, Tommy Ivo—permits the audience to be reminded for even a split second that it is watching actors instead of the people they are pretending to be.

To executive producer and director George Stevens, whose insistence upon getting it right consumed 120 days of shooting time at a period in production history when 60 is considered long, must go top credit for the picture's superiority in craftsmanship, in entertainment purity and universality of commercial usefulness. But there is more than a single glory to be bestowed (the picture was not available in time for consideration in the upcoming Academy Awards competition, but figures to monopolize the 1948 Oscars) and more than enough for producer Harriet Parsons, screen playwright DeWitt Bodeen, who based it on the play by John Van Druten and the novel by Kathryn Forbes, and for cinematographer Nicholas Musurca, musical director C. Bakaleinikoff and the production staff down to the last man.

"I Remember Mama" is a picture for everybody, everywhere. It is a picture for an exhibitor to underwrite to his customers over his personal signature with a money-back (or even a double-your-money-back) guarantee. And the customer who asks for a refund—if such there be somewhere—is a person to be regarded with suspicion.

Running time, 137 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"The Mating of Millie"

(Columbia)

THE standard boy-meets-girl formula has been given highly pleasing treatment in "The Mating of Millie," a well written, competently acted, deftly directed comedy-romance that adds up to 87 minutes of fun-full entertainment for almost any type of audience. These elements, plus the marquee power inherent in the names of star Glenn Ford and Evelyn Keyes, should mark this one for brisk business all down the line.

The performance contributed by little Jimmy Hunt, who is just about the most winning youngster in the current crop of child actors—and who pirates just about every scene in which he appears—is one for the book. It is around him that the screenplay by Louella MacFarlane and St. Clair McKelway revolves.

When department store executive Keyes tries to adopt orphan Jimmy, she is informed by young foundling-home manager Ron Randell that she will have to be married. That is a big problem for prim, man-shy Miss Keyes, but former bus driver Ford whom she had given a job as a floorwalker, takes it upon himself to "educate" the lady on how to snare a husband. He points up Randell as a good catch, and she commences her program all decked out in new duds and ultimately finds she is about to marry advertising executive Willard Parker. Meawhile, of course, love blossoms between her and Ford, who have been getting in one another's hair. It is hard to be other than prosaic in synopsizing the plot for it is constructed of essentially formula maetrial. Truth is that the film's appeal lies completely in the sparkling rendition which was given to the old theme. Director Henry Levin eschewed trying to bring forth guffaws, and wisely so. What he succeeded admirably in doing was to make it a picture good for many broad smiles and happy chuckles. Casey Robinson produced. The original story was by Adele Comandini.

Running time, 87 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Smart Woman"

(Allied Artists) *Hollywood, March 8*

THERE is box-office strength in a roster of names like Brian Aherne, Constance Bennett, Barry Sullivan, Michael O'Shea, James Gleason and John Litel, and this Constance Bennett production, produced by Hal E. Chester, makes the most of it. The film is admirably mounted and photographed, ably directed by Eward A. Blatt, and the script by Alvah Bessie, Louis Morheim and Herbert Margolies (from an original by Leon Gutterman and Edwin W. Westrate) has the useful knack of seeming to tip off what is going to happen next and then surprising with something else instead. The production is round, firm and fully packed, and could turn out to be a lucky strike in terms of grosses.

Miss Bennett portrays a lady lawyer whose renown has accrued from defending criminals, and Aherne plays a special prosecutor appointed by the governor to step in on some cases which District Attorney Kruger has not been able to bring to trial (on account of being himself the Mr. Big in charge of the city's high-riding underworld). The special prosecutor bests the lady lawyer in their first court clash, and then falls in love with her, as she does with him, which makes everything look pretty serene until Kruger is found murdered under circumstances pointing to Sullivan, a top crook and a pal of Kruger's, as the murderer, leading to complications when Aherne and Miss Bennett are pitted against each other in the court-room, with her as Sullivan's counsel.

Running time, 93 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

W. R. W.

New York Grosses

(Continued from page 1)

Winter Garden, where $25,000 is seen for a first week. Third week of "Road to Rio," and Louis Prima's band on stage, is good, with $90,000 expected. "Relentless" got off to a fair start at the Criterion where a first week is expected to wind up with $30,000.

The two Warner houses, the Strand and Warner, will bring in reissue bills this week. "The Fighting 69th" will replace "My Girl Tisa" on Friday at the Strand where a third and final week of "Tisa," plus Vaughn Monroe's band on stage, is expected to bring a fairly satisfactory $42,000. "Robin Hood" will replace "A Miracle Can Happen" on Wednesday at the Warner where a fifth and final week of "Miracle" looks like a poor $8,000.

Sunday's rain took the edge off business at the Astor, where the 13th week of "The Bishop's Wife" looks like $27,500; at the Mayfair, where the 17th week of "Gentleman's Agreement" is expected to bring $22,000, and at the Globe where the 18th week of "Body and Soul" is heading for $14,000.

Business is very mild for the following: "If You Knew Susie," Palace, third week, $14,000; "The Pearl," Sutton, third week, $8,700; "To the Ends of the Earth," Rivoli, fourth week, $25,000.

"The Sign of the Ram" will last only nine days at Loew's State where that period is expected to result in a poor $24,000; "The Mating of Millie" will take over on Friday. "Furia" continues good at the Rialto where a seventh week looks like $7,500.

N. Y. Firemen Bill

(Continued from page 1)

executive committee of the MMPTA, has informed the bill's sponsors and legislative leaders that theatres running five motion picture shows a day would have to pay two firemen $10 each for each show, or a total of $36,500 a year under the bill, which is more than the income of many small houses. In the case of theatres seating 5,000 or more, Doob said, the bill authorizes fire commissioners to assign as many firemen as they desire, but the total rate must not exceed $1,500 for one performance. He pointed out that it would be possible in such cases for a theatre giving five shows daily to have to pay $7,500 per day.

The proposed amendment would call for elimination from the bill of the word "shows." To amend the bill would mean that the measure would have to be sent back to Senate and Assembly committees, and it is held possible that reintroduction and passage would be out of the question then before the session ends this week.

Under the bill the $10 fee paid by the theatres would go into local firemen's pension funds, it is assumed.

Bill Would 'Bomb' Theatres Out of Business: ITOA

Asserting that theatres are the "safest buildings for public assemblage," the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York stated here yesterday, through its president, Harry Brandt, that the Fino-Clancy bill would "do more damage to theatres of this state than any group of strategically-placed atom bombs." The ITOA organization said it is "ridiculous that a theatre should be required to pay more than it receives in gross revenue for the performance of an unproductive function."

Nine Sales Meetings Are Set by M-G-M

HOLLYWOOD, March 8. — Following week-long sales conferences at the M-G-M studio, with new product and policy discussions led by Louis B. Mayer, E. J. Mannix and William F. Rodgers, nine divisional sales meetings have been scheduled in the field, two to be held on Thursday, five on Friday and the remaining two on Saturday.

The Albany, Buffalo and Boston sales forces will meet on Thursday at the De Witt Clinton in Albany, with Herman Ripps presiding, and the Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Omaha and Des Moines groups will gather on the same day at the Ambassador East in Chicago, with Burtus Bishop, Jr., and Ralph Maw presiding.

On Friday, the St. Louis, Kansas City and Indianapolis delegations will meet at the Coronado, St. Louis, with Frank Hensler presiding; New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and New Haven branches will meet on that day at the Hotel Astor, New York, with John Byrne presiding; Dallas, New Orleans, Oklahoma City and Memphis groups will also meet on Friday, at the Hotel Adolphus, Dallas, with John Allen presiding; Atlanta, Charlotte and Washington likewise meet Friday, at the Statler, Washington, with Rudolph Berger presiding, and the Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Detroit delegations will also meet, at the William Penn, Pittsburgh, with John J. Maloney presiding.

On Saturday, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles will meet at the St. Francis, San Francisco, with George Hickey presiding, and Denver and Salt Lake will meet at the Brown Palace in Denver, with Sam Gardner presiding.

M-G-M Contingent Due in New York from Hollywood

CHICAGO, March 8.—An M-G-M sales contingent which passed through Chicago today en route to New York included: Rudy Berger, Southern division sales manager; J. B. Byrne, Eastern division sales manager; J. J. Maloney, Central division sales manager, and Eddie Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers, distribution vice-president. The group was on the Coast to view forthcoming product. Rodgers is remaining there for another two weeks.

Western Pa. Allied To Mark Time on MPF

PITTSBURGH, March 8.—The Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania has voted to hold in abeyance any decision supporting the Motion Picture Foundation.

The association also has decided to support the Lewis Bill and has sent a laudatory letter to Jack Kirsch of Chicago, former president of national Allied, for his work on behalf of the organization.

Allied Units

(*Continued from page* 1)

lief affecting the music tax materializing within a year, no instances of Allied members taking new contracts for longer than that have been announced by Ascap up to this time.

Ascap officials declined comment yesterday on what action, if any, the society would take with respect to 30-day license payments.

Exhibitors Can See ASCAP: Frohlich

The argument that exhibitors enjoy the freedom to go to Ascap and make a deal with the society was presented in Federal Court here yesterday by Louis Frohlich, counsel for the defendant, in the trust action brought by Alden-Rochelle, Inc., and 160 other members of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York.

Herman Starr, vice-president of Warner Brothers; Herman Greenberg, Ascap executive, and Louis Bernstein of the musical publishing firm of Shapiro, Bernstein and Co., testified on technical operations of the society.

TOA Asks Voice

(*Continued from page* 1)

paper and radio reports, tending to indicate that American films are being cheapened due to the loss of the British market, have begun to exert a depressive influence on the box office, Gamble said that exhibitors, "by neglect or default," have too long allowed "other branches" to handle the industry's public relations despite the fact that exhibitors are the first and severest sufferers from unfavorable statements emanating "from Hollywood."

Directors to Map Plan

He declined to outline definite plans in this connection until TOA directors meet on the subject.

TOA's activities on admission tax reduction will be vigorously pressed, the TOA head said, but the present feeling is that "we are boxed in by the fact that this is an election year, and we may get an election-year decision, instead of a practical overhauling of excise and income tax methods which is properly due. We might do better next year."

Legislation, censorship, 16mm. films, membership drive, audience expansion and a Governmental proposal to be presented by Attorney General Tom C. Clark on Wednesday are among other items on the agenda. The new theatre music license rates offered by Ascap will also assume an important role among the discussions.

Will Also Discuss Video

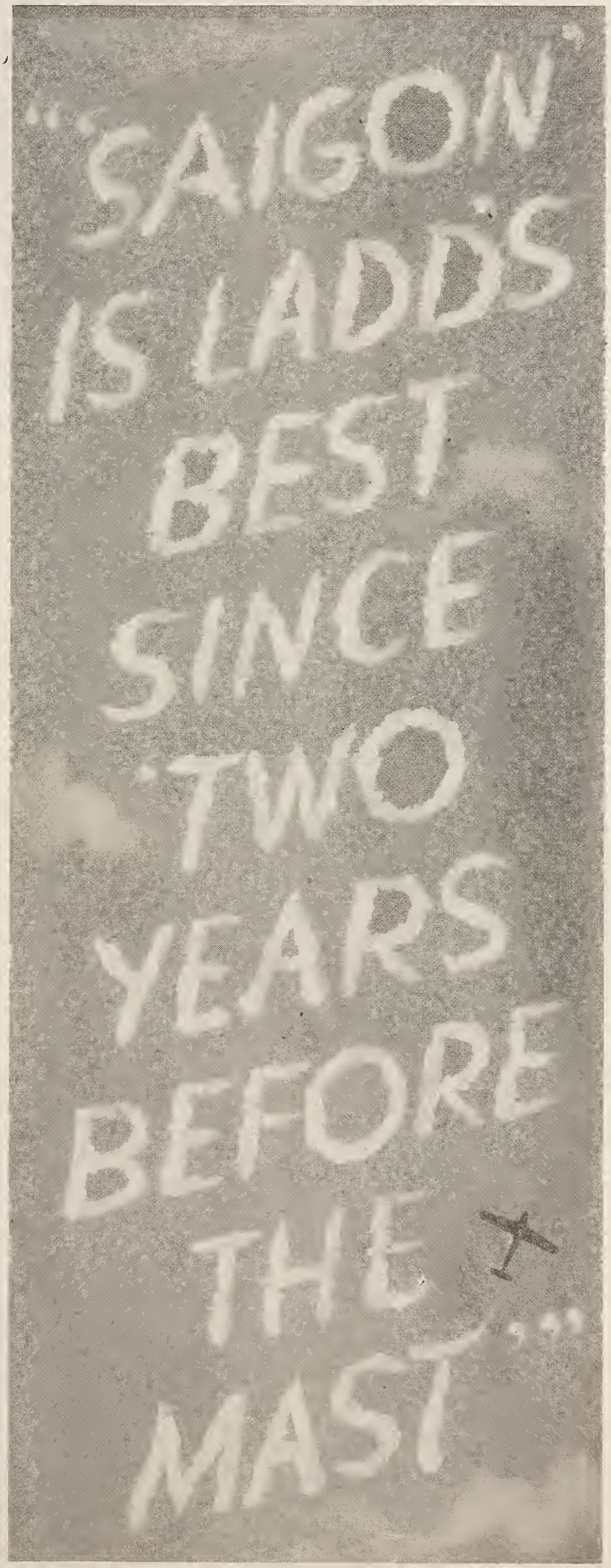
Of television, which will also figure in TOA discussions, Gamble observed that the medium may develop in several directions and not necessarily remain under the control of radio. Television may even take a course which would give theatre owners their own television channels, he said, adding finalistic conclusions in video are improbable at the current TOA session.

Another Bill Seeks Cut in Ticket Tax

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Another bill to cut the admission tax to the pre-war rate of 10 per cent was introduced in the House today by Rep. Landis. The House Ways and Means Committee is now preparing a new tax revision bill, but a cut in the admission levy is regarded as unlikely.

2 Hours for 'Miracle'

RKO Radio said yesterday it was in error in giving the running time of "The Miracle of the Bells" as 126 minutes when the picture was trade-shown here last week. Correct running time, the company said, is 120 minutes.



(Film Daily said it first—about Paramount's new hit)


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IA-Producer Plot Is Ruled Out by NLRB

Upholds Regional Verdict Against CSU Allegations

A ruling that major film companies were not guilty of unfair labor practice in their dealings with the IATSE during the period which preceded the long-standing studio strike has been made by Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, it was disclosed here yesterday by the "IA."

During the course of the current House Labor sub-committee hearings on the Hollywood jurisdictional strikes, Rep. Carroll D. Kearns, chairman of the sub-committee, indicated that he intended to make a finding of fact that the present Coast dispute was the result of a conspiracy between film company and "IA" officials. Industry representatives, including Motion Picture Association of America president

(*Continued on page 7*)

'Slush Fund' Money To Walsh: Sorrell

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Herbert K. Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, charged today that Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, received yearly payments from IATSE's two per cent fund from 1935 until 1940.

Sorrell described the two per cent fund as a levy which all IATSE members paid in addition to their dues and which went to George Browne, former IATSE president, "and no questions asked." Walsh "was one of the family then," Sorrell told a House Labor

(*Continued on page 7*)

Para. Films Without Clearance in 'Loop'

CHICAGO, March 9.—Pending a decision by Federal Judge Michael L. Igoe on applications for contempt citations for alleged violations of the Jackson Park Theatre decree, Paramount has offered "I Walk Alone" and "Albuquerque" for immediate booking following their current Loop runs, with no clearance prevailing on either film.

The company still is undecided on

(*Continued on page 7*)

TOA Board Accepts Bid by Clark on Delinquency Drive

LOS ANGELES, March 9.—Attorney General Tom C. Clark, in an address today at the opening session of the Theatre Owners of America board of directors meeting, called for exhibitor cooperation in activity designed to curb juvenile delinquency. The bid, he said, is the outgrowth of a suggestion made by President Truman.

TOA directors welcomed the invitation and guaranteed the cooperation of exhibitors in the as-yet-uncharted program.

Herman Levy, TOA general counsel, asked for authorization at today's meeting to apply to the New York Federal Court to modify its decree in the industry anti-trust suit, regard-

(*Continued on page 10*)

Act to End Curb on Building by April 1

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The House Banking and Currency Committee today decided to end the Government's power to limit theatre and other entertainment industry construction at the end of this month. The committee voted to eliminate from the rent control bill, passed by the Senate last month, a provision continuing the limitation power through April, 1949.

If the committee sticks by today's decision during the rest of its deliberations on the rent control bill, and if the House ratifies its action—both of which events are considered likely—

(*Continued on page 6*)

Technicolor Netted $1,422,752 in 1947

A record net of $1,422,752 was made by Technicolor last year, Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president and general manager, discloses in the company's annual report, released yesterday. Net before deductions for taxes and other obligations amounted to $3,492,049. Last year's net compared with 1946's $436,168.

Last year, dividends per share of

(*Continued on page 6*)

Report 50% Asked For 'Miracle', 'Mama'

RKO Radio is asking for a 50-50 split from the first dollar for both "Miracle of the Bells" and "I Remember Mama," circuit operators said yesterday. Increased admission scales are not being sought, it was said.

Tax Peace Delayed; Talks Resume Today

London, March 9.—Settlement of the British film tax problem which it had been hoped might be achieved today was delayed for at least another 24 hours.

Both pre-luncheon and after luncheon talks between Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, and Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, proved inconclusive today and the talks were adjourned at 6:30 P.M. until 2:30 Wednesday afternoon. The patient, intensive searching for a settlement formula is continuing among principals and within the committee of film experts.

Johnston 'Triumph' Marks CEA Affair

LONDON, March 9.—Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, scored an immense triumph here tonight at the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association annual meeting and party, setting off the cool reception accorded Board of Trade president Harold Wilson who carefully eschewed disclosing details of proposals for settlement of the 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax impasse.

When Johnston rose to address the CEA gathering, he was greeted with prolonged cheers, regarded as expressing the desire of the British ex-

(*Continued on page 10*)

New UK Unit Backs Production Rise

LONDON, March 9.—The recently-constituted Joint Production Advisory Committee for U.K. production has held its first meeting, and turned immediately to expanding domestic filming.

This committee—not to be confused with the National Joint Film Production Council being set-up by president of the Board of Trade Harold Wilson—has been conceded by the British Film Producers Association following pressure from trade unions for a greater share in management control.

It is comprised of seven producers and seven trade-unionists, with Sir Henry French, director-general of the BFPA in the chair.

Discussion at the first meeting was of a general character and it was

(*Continued on page 10*)

Myers Hints at Ascap Suits Naming TOA

Cites High Court Rulings In Electric, Gypsum Cases

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel of Allied States, today issued a thinly-veiled warning of new Allied treble damage anti-trust suits against Ascap and at the same time threatened that Theatre Owners of America leaders might be included as defendants in such suits.

Myers used as a springboard for his warning two patent law decisions handed down yesterday by the Supreme Court, which he hailed as "a blow to the music trust." If Ascap is held guilty of Sherman Act violations as a result of these two decisions, he warned, persons negotiating with Ascap will be just as guilty.

"Undoubtedly these decisions will give rise to new law suits," Myers said, "and among the defendants to such actions may be some new and very red faces."

The decisions, in cases involving

(*Continued on page 10*)

Amend Firemen Bill; Adoption Doubted

ALBANY, N. Y., March 9.—Objections to the amended form of the Fino-Clancy firemen-in-theatres bill by representatives of theatres, both motion picture and legitimate, and theatre employes unions were again expressed this afternon as uncertainty developed over whether the measure, as amended last night to apply only

(*Continued on page 6*)

'Arch' Into Globe for Broadway Showing

"Arch of Triumph" will open on Broadway at the Globe Theatre at a date still to be determined. Policy for the Enterprise picture will be continuous performances at $1.80 top.

"Body and Soul," currently at the Globe, is scheduled to give way to Eagle-Lion's "Adventures of Casanova" on March 20. "Arch" will open on conclusion of the "Casanova" run.

Personal Mention

HAL WALLIS, Paramount producer, arrived in New York yesterday from Hollywood.

•

JAY EISENBERG of M-G-M's legal department and IRVING HELFONT of the sales department will leave here today for Montreal where they will confer with HENRY L. NATHANSON, president of M-G-M Films of Canada, and TED GOULD, sales manager.

•

OSCAR MORGAN, Paramount short subjects sales manager, will leave New York Saturday for a tour of the company's branches.

•

JOHN BYRAM, Paramount play editor, will sail from New York for Europe next Tuesday on the *SS Nieuw Amsterdam.*

•

SOL A. SCHWARTZ, RKO Theatres vice-president and general manager, and MRS. SCHWARTZ are due back in New York today by plane from the Coast.

•

GEORGE ROSE has been appointed assistant booker in Eagle-Lion's Chicago exchange, while RICHARD J. KING has been named booker in Oklahoma City.

•

JOSEPH MOSKOWITZ, 20th-Fox's Eastern studio representative, made a brief stopover in Chicago on his way back to New York from the Coast.

•

TOM YOUNG, 20th Century-Fox branch manager in Memphis, and MRS. YOUNG have returned to that city from a Florida vacation.

•

FRED LAWRENCE, Eagle-Lion salesman in the Oklahoma City branch, has been transferred to the Memphis exchange.

•

SAM LAKE, former Paramount sales representative, has joined the Selznick Releasing Organization sales force in New York.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, M-G-M short subjects sales head, is due back in New York today from a Mid-West tour.

•

WALTER BRANSON, RKO Radio Western division manager, and SID KRAMER, short subjects salesman, are in Chicago from New York.

•

W. H. BLANK is now city manager of Switow Amusement theatres in Seymour, Ind.

•

LANE SLATE, formerly with Eagle-Lion here, has joined Louis De Rochemont Associates.

•

ED SUSSE has been promoted to Buffalo, N. Y., salesman for M-G-M from Albany office manager.

•

CLARENCE B. WILSON has joined Eagle-Lion as salesman in the Dallas exchange.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

DISTRIBUTORS and lawyers are positively high over dismissal of the McLendon anti-trust suit in Dallas late last Saturday, right from the bench and immediately after conclusion of trial. This was the action aimed at the eight majors, plus the Interstate and Robb and Rowley United circuits, charging a conspiracy to control first and subsequent runs in Dallas and environs.

The popular impression is that this suit bore much resemblance to the Jackson Park case in Chicago, which was one the distributors lost and over which all of them have been losing sleep.

■

The Dallas victory has significance, of course. But it is interesting to boot because this anti-trust action was the second, not the first, controversy between the McLendons and the distributors. Last July, all eight companies asked the right to inspect the books of this circuit of 19 houses, two in Dallas and the rest in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. What distributors said they were after was verification of receipts on percentage pictures. The exhibitor resisted and, while this point remained unresolved, the McLendons filed their now-defeated anti-trust suit in September.

■

Where the lines end or begin to cross is not entirely in the clear, and it could be merely coincidence. But it is further interesting to note that each of the distributors involved in the anti-trust action had interposed separate answers charging the exhibitor had come into court under a cloud by reason of eight distinct distributor allegations that the exhibitor's report on percentage returns were not beyond challenge as applied to his Casa Linda and Beverly Hills theatres in Dallas.

Experienced lawyers are of the opinion that this is the first anti-trust litigation to reach actual trial where the distributors have interposed this as one of their defenses.

■ ■

It is historic now, that deal whereby Selznick International almost bought RKO. Jock Whitney was to be board chairman and David O. the production works. "It was agreed," Selznick was reminiscing, "but at what was supposed to be the final get-together, I noticed Floyd Odlum was not comfortable. Of course, the deal never developed and it was several years before I again saw Odlum. He asked if I recalled our last meeting and if I had noted anything peculiar in his attitude. I said I had, whereupon Odlum replied, 'I didn't want to go through because of 'Gone With the Wind'. That shows how much I knew about the film business'."

■

On titles and another Selznick yarn. His sales force attributes much of the success of "Body and Soul" to its title. "They forgot I suggested it for 'The Paradine Case' and that they turned me down," he declared.

■ ■

Bill Rodgers on the state of the celluloid union from Metro's capital at Culver City:

"The entire industry needs outstanding product now. It is imperative every effort be made to attract at least a good percentage of the more than 50,000,000 Americans who do not regularly go to theatres. . . . We believe we have such a product. . . We are going to ask the exhibitors of the nation for their fullest cooperation in giving these new productions the kind of support and important presentation they deserve."

Since Leo does his roaring silently these days, the question is what kind of support will Metro be giving the exhibitor?

■ ■

Eric Johnston was hardly keen about Jim Mulvey's presence on that plane which finally carried them to London and the British tax discussions. Johnston is mainstay for the MPAA, while Mulvey's responsibility is to the SIMPP. The approaches are not necessarily identical in all respects.

Before the plane left La Guardia, however, there was transcontinental conversation. Sam Goldwyn burned telephone lines, distance and Johnston.

Mulvey was included in.

■ ■

Like the Romans, there may be no need to beware the Ides of March. You might watch for them, however. Something big may break by next Monday.

Newsreel Parade

PRESIDENT TRUMAN and Gen. MacArthur tossing their hats in the political ring make newsreel highlights in current releases. Other items include De Valera's arrival here, along with sports, fashions and human interest subjects. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 20—Pres. Truman announces candidacy. Gen. MacArthur will run if nominated. Gen. De Gaulle asks aid to stop Reds. Barbara Ann Scott arrives home. Sail-planes fly over ocean in glider meet. "Golden Gloves" in Madison Square Garden. "Bucky" Harris drills New York Yankees. Boston Braves work out. Chicago Cubs in training. Santa Anita Derby.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 254.—Gen. De Gaulle asks aid to stem Reds. Canadian army trains troops in Arctic warfare. De Valera in U. S. President Truman returns to Capitol. Canada hails Olympic heroine. Gliders in record soaring contest. Baseball. Track meet.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 57.—Baseball. Yankees and Pittsburgh Pirates. President Truman, Gen. MacArthur will accept if nominated. Greek army pushes water offensive. Barbara Ann Scott returns. Turf thriller.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 124 — Ski troops train in Yukon. Reorganized Greek army reviewed. China receives Jap reparations. De Valera in New York. Canada hails Barbara Ann Scott. Baseball spring training. Billiards.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 59—Gen. MacArthur tosses his hat into the ring. President Truman will run if nominated. Gen. De Gaulle on political tour. De Valera arrives in U. S. Princess Maijke celebrates her first birthday. Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, watches teen-agers box. Barbara Ann Scott returns to Canada. Fashion spotlight on men. Hollywood hails Louella Parsons. Drunk-O-Meter. Santa Anita Derby.

$200,000 Voted for Thomas Committee

WASHINGTON, March 9.—After a bitter debate, the House today voted, 337 to 37, to grant the Un-American Activities Committee $200,000 to continue its work during the balance of the year. The appropriation, from House funds, does not require Senate approval.

No mention of the Hollywood hearings and investigation was made during the debate, which centered around the committee's current investigation of Bureau of Standards head Dr. E. V. Condon. The small, vocal minority said that the committee was using its funds for political purposes and headline-grabbing rather than constructive work.

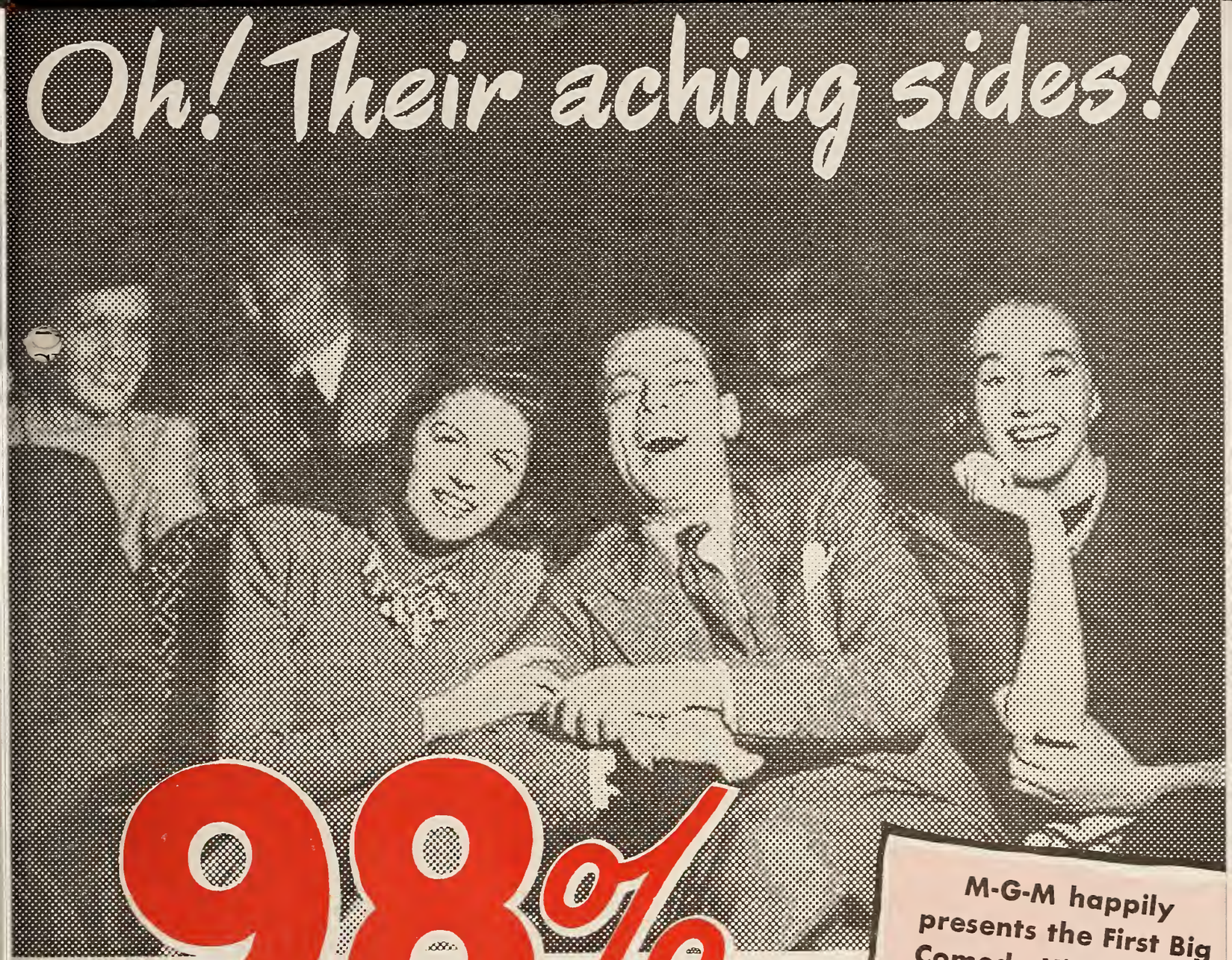
The appropriation, a record for the committee, is more than double last year's.

I. Mandell In Auto Crash

MIAMI, March 9.—Irving Mandell, Monogram franchise holder in Chicago, sustained four broken ribs when, in trying to avoid another car, he crashed into a tree here after returning from a fishing trip. Also injured were his two brothers, Lee Mandell and Dr. Robert Mandell, who were in the car.

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Oh! Their aching sides!



98% will recommend it to their friends!

History was made at Loew's Yonkers Theatre when an SRO Preview audience welcomed the comedy hit that's headed for the box-office headlines! In a scientific survey by the Motion Picture Research Bureau, it registered the highest "will recommend" rating in years. There are few real belly-laugh comedies on the market. The public wants to laugh and here's your chance to give them the funniest film in 10 years!

M-G-M happily presents the First Big Comedy Hit of 1948!

VAN JOHNSON
JUNE ALLYSON

in

THE BRIDE GOES WILD

BUTCH JENKINS · HUME CRONYN
UNA MERKEL

Original Screen Play by Albert Beich
Directed by NORMAN TAUROG
Produced by WILLIAM H. WRIGHT
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

. . . . Reprinted from the March 8th Edition of Motion Picture Daily

In the kind of market shaping up ever more rapidly in these post-war days, there is less and less room for wishful thinking and a great deal more for aggressive selling and merchandising.

At 20th Century-Fox there seems to be an alert appreciation of these latter day requirements. But the appreciation without the product can be pretty futile. At 20th-Fox the feeling is anything but that.

—*Sherwin Kane*













. . . For 20th *Century-Fox has the Product!*

Gentleman's Agreement

Its record at the boxoffice is matched only by its record acclaim!

Captain From Castile

TECHNICOLOR

2nd Consecutive month a Motion Picture Herald Box-office Champion!

You Were Meant For Me

The musical that's meant for audiences and showmen everywhere!

Call Northside 777

"Smash! Leading the field!" reports Variety as it out-grosses the biggest of 20th's outstanding "true" dramas!

Sitting Pretty

Setting records for laughs and ticket-selling in New York—Miami—Boston!

Scudda-Hoo! Scudda-Hay!

TECHNICOLOR

Matching the pace of "My Friend Flicka," "Smoky" and "Home In Indiana" in 6-state, 329-Theatre World Premiere!

E-K's 1947 Income At $43,199,254

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 9.—With 1947 consolidated net earnings registering a $7,507,936 advance over that of 1946's $35,691,318, Eastman Kodak's production, sales and earnings last year were "at higher levels than ever before," Perley S. Wilcox, chairman, and Thomas J. Hargrave, president, disclose in their annual report to stockholders. Last year's net of $43,199,254 was equal to $3.46 a share of common stock, compared with $2.85 in 1946.

Total sales in 1947 reached $351,751,098, while the previous year's total was $274,703,448.

Cash and securities of the company were reduced by $44,440,380 since the beginning of 1946, the report stated, adding that a considerable amount of cash resources were used to finance increased inventories and additions and improvements to plants and equipment. Cost of additions and improvements, postponed during the war period, amounted to $38,971,233 last year and $44,581,688 in 1946.

'U' Directors Up for Election Today

WILMINGTON, Del., March 9.—Stockholders of Universal will convene at the company's corporate office here tomorrow for their annual meeting and to elect 14 directors.

All members of the present board have been nominated for re-election. They are: Robert S. Benjamin, Nate Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, Matthew Fox, William J. German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Shaeffer and G. I. Woodham-Smith.

Technicolor Net

(*Continued from page* 1)

capital stock amounted to $1.00 for a total of $913,497, compared with 50 cents in the previous year when the total was $454,978. Net earnings per share were equal to $1.55, whereas in 1946 they were equal to only 48 cents.

Output of Technicolor 35mm. release prints in 1947 was 222,017,439 feet, against 165,027,297 feet in 1946, the report states, adding that the company's capacity has been sold out for 1948.

Features filmed in Technicolor during the year numbered 30. The report lists 48 now in production, preparation, or under contract to be photographed this year. Six were photographed in 1947 by the company's British affiliate, Technicolor, Ltd., which is now filming, preparing, or has under contract nine features for 1948.

The report states that Technicolor net sales in 1947 were $17,407,957, whereas in 1946 they amounted to $13,057,510.

As of Dec. 31 last, Technicolor's current assets were $9,123,002 and current liabilities were $4,024,646. Cash balance and U. S. Government obligations totaled $7,036,856.

Kalmus said that Technicolor probably will reach a volume of approximately 320,000,000 feet a year of positive prints by the end of 1948 or early 1949. "About September, 1948," Kalmus said, "we expect to begin to receive new Technicolor three-strip cameras currently being built.

Reviews

"Fort Apache"

(*Argosy-RKO Radio*) *Hollywood, March 9*

SHOWMEN have here the availability of an extraordinary number of name players for mention in their exploitation of an extraordinarily constituted frontier melodrama directed by the John Ford whose "Stagecoach" made entertainment and box-office history. The nameful cast includes John Wayne, Henry Fonda, Shirley Temple, Ward Bond, Victor McLaglen, Irene Rich, Guy Kibbee, Pedro Armendariz, Grant Withers, Mae Marsh, Mary Gordon, Dick Foran and—rating special mention because he is the young man who married Shirley Temple and this is the public's first opportunity to see him on the screen—John Agar.

Exhibitor advertising predicated on all those names ought to get the picture a strong opening, after which the outcome of the run probably will depend upon the public's acceptance of a quite different treatment of the U.S. Cavalry and its dealings with the Indians than the subject has received heretofore. This time the Cavalry is the heavy, and gets pretty well mowed down by the Indians for that reason, which is sharply enough at variance with cinema precedent to have thrown the Hollywood preview audience for a distinctly perceptible loss.

What co-producers Ford and Merian C. Cooper had in mind to prove, with a script by Frank S. Nugent based on a story by James Warner Bellah, is not made entirely clear by their 127 minutes of picture, but they used more Cavalrymen and Indians in the undertaking than have been seen in one picture for many and many a year. And for a setting they used some of the grandest Western scenery ever caught by a camera. They also used some amusing comedy relief, many finely authenticated trappings of the period (which looks like about 1875, or so) and sparkling photography, by Archie Stout. If they stinted on anything, it was on clarification, which all the riding and shooting and killing does not quite compensate for.

Fonda plays a U.S. Army colonel unhappy about being sent West to command Fort Apache but determined to command the fort and its personnel and the Indian situation if it kills him, which it finally does. Wayne plays a captain who is on friendly terms with the Apache chief, who has taken his people from the rum-ridden reservation across the boundary into Mexico. After a prolonged series of incidents, in which Fonda makes life miserable for everybody in his command or thereabouts, Wayne is sent to visit the Apache chief in Mexico and invite him back across the border for a peace talk with Fonda.

Wayne is successful in setting up the conference, but Fonda announces he is going to double-cross the deal by breaking out the Cavalry and bringing the Apaches in by force. He and all of his men but Wayne and a handful of others are massacred by the Indians in the battle which follows, and the picture ends sardonically on a sequence in which, some time later, the nation's press is shown to have glamorized the despicable Fonda as a hero, a martyr and what have you. (Agar and Miss Temple play out a routine romance in the background of the story).

The producers of "Fort Apache" have undertaken to show, at great expense and considerable length, that the Indians, in at least this instance, and inferentially in general, received very shabby treatment at the hands of the Federal Government.

Running time, 127 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER.

"Mary Lou"

(*Columbia*)

FEATURING Frankie Carle, his piano and his orchestra, "Mary Lou" is the story of an airline hostess turned vocalist. Starring Robert Lowery, Joan Barton, Glenda Farrell and Frank Jenks, it is a picture which will provide audiences with an amusing story, an abundance of music from Carle and several dance and song routines.

Director Arthur Dreifuss has kept the plot well in hand and progressing smoothly. It concerns the hostess whose big opportunity comes when the regular singer quits the band. Started on her career, she finds that she cannot continue because the original singer prevents the use of the name of "Mary Lou," which appears in contracts. Eventually it is proved that the name belongs to no one person, and the airline hostess remains with the band.

Woven through the plot are moments of comedy on the part of Miss Farrell and Jenks as the love-birds who do not see eye to eye on marriage. To further lighten the mood there are such songs as the title number, "Don't Mind My Troubles," "I'm Sorry I Didn't Say I'm Sorry," "That's Good Enough for Me" and others, including several South American tunes. Sam Katzman produced. M. Coates Webster wrote the screenplay.

Running time, 66 minutes. General audience classification.

End Building Curb

(*Continued from page* 1)

then the final decision on the construction limitation order will be made in conference between Senate and House delegates on the rent control bill.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Housing Expediter during the week ending March 5 approved only one theatre—for Warner Brothers, in Hagerstown, Md., for $20,650. It denied 22 theatre projects, which would have cost $1,312,986.

Services Here Today For John M. Benas

Archbishop Athenagoras, head of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Americas, will officiate at funeral services of John Maurice Benas, 49, who was head of the film buying department of Skouras Theatres. Services will be held at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, at two P.M., today. Benas died last Sunday at New York Hospital.

Goodman Leaves E-L; Sales Setup Revised

Del Goodman, Eagle-Lion's West Coast division manager, has resigned, effective immediately, William J. Heineman, distribution vice-president, reporting here that the West Coast division manager's post has been eliminated.

Heineman said a new post, that of Pacific Coast district manager, will be created shortly. Meanwhile, he added, under a realignment of executive sales in the company's Los Angeles branch, Sam Milner will be branch manager and C. T. Charack will be sales manager.

Firemen Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

to "live-entertainment" shows, would be returned to the legislators in time for action before the close of the current session on Saturday.

Hit Measure as 'Vague'

Statements issued by spokesmen for the New York Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association, Independent Theatres Owners Association, the legislative committee of the IATSE, Upstate Theatres, Inc., theatre owners of the Albany exchange area and the League of New York Theatres (legitimate) declared that the bill would affect every place where any type of entertainment or performance was included in the program. The original measure was loosely drafted and amendments, likewise, are vague, the statements said.

Fate of the hotly-contested proposal, which has been altered to apply to "live" shows and limiting charges to $20 daily for two firemen in houses of less than 7,000 capacity, is uncertain, although observers believed chances of passage are not too good.

See Delay from Printer

Doubt that the bill, as altered, would return from the printer in time to lay it on legislators' desks for the required three days was expressed by Senator Paul Fino, while other observers, such as the Uniformed Firemen's Association, which is chief supporter of the bill, contended that the new copies could be returned in time, and that it would come to a vote Thursday or Friday.

Orrin Judd, MMPTA attorney, and Abraham Mopper of the ITOA, returned to New York late this afternoon. They plan to return Thursday. Leonard Rosenthal of Upstate Theatres and the Albany area Theatre Owners of America affiliate, will remain here, along with the IATSE committee.

Rites for Chet Bell On West Coast Today

LOS ANGELES, March 9.—Funeral services for Chester J. Bell, 50, Paramount's Denver branch manager on leave of absence, will be held in Steen's Chapel in North Hollywood tomorrow. Interment will be in Louisville, Ky.

Bell, who was Paramount's branch manager in Los Angeles before taking over in Denver, died in a hospital here yesterday following a major operation. He had been with the company for a quarter of a century.

Surviving are the widow, parents and a sister.

N.Y. 'Sun' Publishes Television Section

The *New York Sun* yesterday published a 20-page section devoted to television, the section including articles, advertising and art.

Among contributors were Paul Raibourn, vice-president in charge of television at Paramount; Dr. Allen B. DuMont, president of DuMont Laboratories; David Sarnoff, president and board chairman of RCA; W. J. Purcell, General Electric's broadcast-TV operations engineer; J. R. Poppele, president of the Television Broadcasters Association; Mark Woods, president of American Broadcasting; Frederick D. Ogilby, sales manager of the radio division of Philco Corp.; Wayne Coy, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and others.

Raibourn wrote that theatre television "is here," at least "as far as the mechanics are concerned." He pointed out the many hurdles which still must be overcome "before theatre television becomes an everyday part of the American entertainment scene."

1,048 Theatres Are In Atlanta Area

There are 1,048 theatres with a seating capacity of 639,296 currently in operation in the Atlanta exchange area, according to the Atlanta theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association of America is releasing today.

The 29th in a series of 31, the Atlanta directory reveals that in Atlanta and Birmingham, the area's two largest cities, there are 63 theatres, with 52,242 seats, an average of 829 per house.

Some 349 theatres are operating in 336 towns with a population of 2,500 and under. The capacity of theatres in this population group averages 358 seats per house.

'306' Membership Will Ratify Pact Tomorrow

A full membership meeting of IATSE projectionists' Local No. 306 will be held at Palm Gardens here tomorrow to consider the agreement on a new contract which was reached last weekend between representatives of local affiliated circuits and "306."

The meeting is expected to ratify the agreement, according to a spokesman for the local, whereupon the "306" negotiators will draw up a contract for signing.

'IA' Plot Ruled Out

(*Continued from page* 1)

Eric A. Johnston, have testified against that contention at the hearings.

Denham's ruling, "IA" reports, related to a complaint brought by the striking Conference of Studio Unions on Sept. 30, 1946, that the companies had refused to bargain with the CSU and had conspired with the "IA" to break up the CSU.

Confirming a decision handed down by the director of the 21st NLRB region in California, Denham said he found there was not sufficient evidence of violation to warrant further proceedings.

'Slush Fund'

(*Continued from page* 1)

sub-committee now in its fourth week of an investigation of the Hollywood jurisdictional strike. "And I don't think it has changed too much," he added.

At the same time the CSU head told the committee that if Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, "had the power, and they didn't handicap him," he could make labor relations in Hollywood "click."

Sorrell also said he "was told" that National Labor Relations Board general counsel Robert Denham was "in the pockets of the motion picture producers." Denham, as a trial examiner in 1945, ruled that members of the set decorators who had gone over to the CSU couldn't vote. MPAA attorney Burton Zorn interjected that "We're having too much character assassination without proof," but Sorrell brushed this off with "Wait, I'll get to it."

Says $125,000 Was 'Divided'

Sorrell charged that Al Lanigan, whom he merely identified as "an IATSE official," had paid the following amounts to Walsh from the two per cent "slush" fund: $2,392 in 1935; $8,932 in 1936; $6,344 in 1937; $5,700 in 1938; and $5,200 in 1939. He also charged that John L. Risley, whose identity he promised to get for the committee, had paid to Walsh, also from the two per cent fund, $3,300 in 1937; $5,700 in 1938; $5,200 in 1939; and $2,800 in 1940.

In addition, he declared, $125,000 had been withdrawn in 1935 from the fund and "divided among certain IATSE vice-presidents." He claimed Walsh received a check for $4,080 from this fund, which check Walsh cashed in New York City and on which he paid income tax.

The committee hopes Sorrell will finish his tour on the stand tomorrow, but does not expect the hearings to end this week. Still to be heard from are Zorn, carpenters' attorney Zach Lamar Cobb, Walsh, and other union officials.

Landis 'Can't See Conspiracy'

Sorrell told the committee he was positive he could prove conspiracy between the producers and IATSE not only from the minutes of the producers' labor committee meeting but "from things that have happened and are still happening." Rep. Landis said, "You may prove it, but I can't see the conspiracy myself."

Sorrell said he didn't want to go too deeply into the conspiracy—"only deep enough to show there is a conspiracy. . . ."

As one of the proofs, Sorrell told the committee, independent producers are being forced to close down because they "can't get good painters."

Sorrell said Johnston had told him he didn't take the job as MPAA head because of the money it paid, but because he "could be of more help to a larger number of human beings this way." Johnston told him, Sorrell continued, that films "can spread our way of life and in order to make that possible we must have the best labor relations."

Rogers Settles Tilt

Amicable settlement of differences between Roy Rogers and Republic was announced here yesterday by the company. The Western star's next picture, "Eyes of Texas," Trucolor, will go into production on March 23.

Plan Restrictions on Theatre Marquees

Cleveland, March 9.—A proposed revision of this city's building code would restrict horizontal advertising over sidewalk marquees to five feet. No restrictions are contemplated governing marquee advertising where the theatre marquee is set back from the sidewalk.

Ernest Schwartz, president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, states that a five-foot ruling would work a hardship on many theatre owners. Average horizontal advertising, according to Schwartz, is 11 feet.

Para. Drops 2-Reel Shorts for '48-'49

Paramount has dropped its two-reel Technicolor musicals from its 1948-1949 short subjects program, at the same time doubling the number of single-reel Pacemakers and increasing its cartoon releases from 24 to 30.

In announcing the program yesterday, Oscar Morgan, Paramount's shorts sales manager, said that elimination of multiple-reel subjects from the lineup, which will consist of 70 one-reelers, plus Paramount News, had been prompted by the fact that "for over a year there has been a definite trend to one-reel subjects, away from longer ones."

The program will be made up as follows: Eight Popeyes, 10 Noveltoons, 12 Screen Songs, 12 Pacemakers, six Speaking of Animals, six Popular Sciences, six Unusual Occupations and 10 Grantland Rice Sportlights.

Zoning Schedule for Toronto Blackouts

TORONTO, March 9.—Because of protests against the interruption of power during business hours without warning, the Toronto Hydro-Electric Commission has prepared a zoning schedule for three total blackouts daily, with the exception of Saturday and Sunday, so that theatres, stores and industries can time their operations accordingly. The schedule probably will be in force for two months.

Para. Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

plans for subsequent run showings of "Unconquered," which is scheduled for general release April 9. If Judge Igoe decides the film was roadshown when it first played here, it could be exhibited again in the Loop at regular admissions before playing neighborhood houses.

Richard Salkin, manager of the Jackson Park Theatre, said other companies have increased product availabilities since the contempt hearings which closed here last Friday. He said product coming out of the Loop is piling up and "there is plenty to choose from but I won't pass up any good, new pictures to play product I missed."

News Briefs

MPA to Take Vote on Beacon Award Winner on March 23

A general meeting of the Motion Picture Associates is scheduled for March 23 in the Piccadilly Hotel here. In announcing the luncheon-meeting, MPA president Arthur L. Mayer informed members that foremost on the agenda is the vote to be taken for the recipient of the MPA annual "Beacon Award," given for meritorious service to the industry. Award will be presented at the annual dinner-dance, to be held May 21 in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Another matter to come up at the meeting will be a discussion on the executive committee's proposal that women in the industry be admitted to MPA membership.

'IA' Organizing Coast News Agencies' Television Units

HOLLYWOOD, March 9.—IATSE Hollywood cameramen's Local No. 659 will organize news service organizations here which have launched television newsreel programs, and is now working with employes on a joint educational program. Companies involved are International News Service, Associated Press, United Press and Acme Photo Service, all having assigned still photographers to 16mm. camera work.

BALTIMORE, March 9.—Dismissing unfair labor practice charges brought by the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians, Ross M. Madden, regional director here of the National Labor Relations Board, has confirmed the IATSE's right to represent technical workers at Du Mont's television station WTTG, Washington.

Indiana Theatre Owners to Hold Annual Meeting July 26-28

INDIANAPOLIS, March 9.—The Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana will hold its annual convention and summer outing at the French Lick Springs Hotel, French Lick, Ind., July 26-28. Plans for a Great Lakes boat trip, in which exhibitors from neighboring state organizations also would participate, have been dropped due to the difficulty of lining up sufficient reservations.

Coast Daylight Time Begins Sunday

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 9.—With passage by the state Assembly of the Senate-approved bill favored by Governor Earl Warren, daylight saving will go into effect in California Sunday morning. The measure, intended to relieve the power shortage caused by a drought, will remain in effect until Jan. 16 unless the Governor declares the emergency ended prior to that date.

Daylight saving is expected to reduce theatre grosses 10 per cent or more.

Buchanan on Bischoff Picture

Buchanan and Co., advertising agency here, has been retained by Samuel Bischoff Productions to handle the national newspaper, radio and magazine campaigns for its forthcoming United Artists release, "Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven."

A HEARTY WELCOME TO J. ARTHUR RANK

Concurrently with Mr. Rank's visit to our shores at this time, is the good news that has accrued about the J. Arthur Rank Productions since his last visit here.

Such pictures as "GREAT EXPECTATIONS," "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN" and "ODD MAN OUT" have received unprecedented critical praise in addition to being mentioned on important "Ten Best" lists.

Just last week "Life" magazine again pointed out that "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" was one of the fine motion pictures to be exhibited in this country.

Currently, "BLACK NARCISSUS" is not only receiving fine critical acclaim but is being patronized by the American public to a degree that indicates this picture will reach the same stature as "GREAT EXPECTATIONS."

Much good news already heralds the American release of the memorable production of "HAMLET" and last week "Life" magazine devoted much space in publicizing the production of "RED SHOES."

Such Prestige pictures as "I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING" and "BRIEF ENCOUNTER" have already made history with long runs and excellent boxoffice returns.

Soon to be released by Universal-International are "DEAR MURDERER," and "THE WHITE UNICORN" which portend to be up to the fine standard that has been associated with J. Arthur Rank Productions.

It certainly should be gratifying, not only to Mr. Rank, but to the exhibitors of America, that his pictures are making their mark in this country.

FROM UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL

Watch for
future announcements
about
J. Arthur Rank Productions
to be released by U-I



Myers-Ascap

(*Continued from page* 1)

electrical appliance and gypsum manufacturers, went far to limit the court's 1926 General Electric case decision. In that case, the court held that a patent holder could fix prices at which his licensees must sell the patented article. Yesterday the court ruled that this did not include price-fixing arising from cross-licensing arrangements nor deals where patents are used merely as a cloak for price-fixing and control of an entire industry. Such situations, the court held yesterday, clearly fall afoul of the Sherman anti-trust law, regardless of any patent right.

Sees Blow at 'Music Trust'

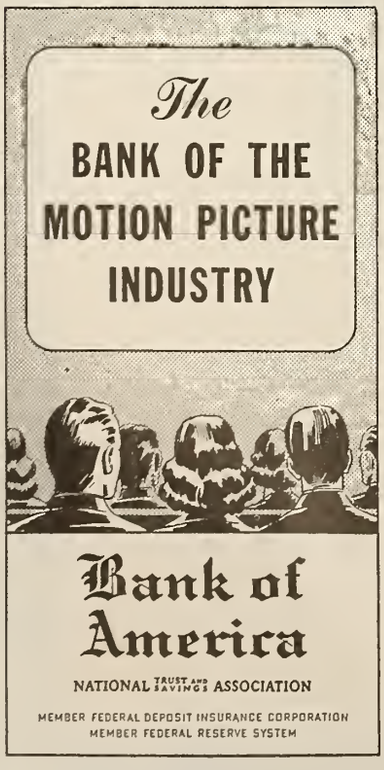
In a bulletin yesterday, Myers, who participated in the General Electric case and has made a specialty of patent and copyright law, said "Just read copyright instead of patent in these decisions and it will be clear that the court has struck a blow at the music trust. Its decisions yesterday should be of the greatest comfort to Ben Berger, Harry Brandt, and others fighting Ascap in court."

"It appears certain," he continued, "that a great copyright pool issuing uniform licenses at uniform rates amounts to a price-fixing conspiracy. When films moving in interstate commerce are burdened by that conspiracy the applicability of the Sherman Act becomes apparent."

Recall Talks with Attorney General

While TOA officials negotiated the new rates with Ascap which become effective for exhibitors next Monday, the participating officials, both TOA and Ascap, consulted the U. S. Attorney General's office before concluding their negotiations and reportedly were told their procedure was legally proper.

Also, TOA merely recommended the rates to exhibitors as fair and the best obtainable, leaving it to exhibitors to reject the new rates if they did not favor them.



Reviews

"April Showers"

(Warner Brothers)

Hollywood, March 9

THE song hits of 1908 and thereabouts, performed as they were in the vaudeville of that era, which is the setting of this story, may now be said to have about the same appeal for today's youngsters as today's oldsters, due to their wholesale revival by radio and dancebands. These numbers—the title song, "Pretty Baby," and others in kind—lay a pleasant veneer over a picture presenting the tribulations of a vaudeville act playing the West Coast and yearning for a Broadway break. Names for the marquee are Jack Carson and Ann Sothern, and these proficient troupers, supported by Robert Alda, S. Z. Sakall and a versatile youngster named Robert Ellis, extract quite a bit of entertainment from the somewhat patternistic production provided by William Jacobs and the casual direction of James V. Kern.

Peter Milne's screenplay opens with Carson and Miss Sothern, a song-and-dance team which has not revised its material in five years, down on their luck in San Francisco. Their son, Ellis, who wants to be a vaudevillian, deserts his military school and is permitted to join the act, into which he instills so much spirit that the act is summoned to New York for a Broadway opening which blows up through a law prohibiting theatrical performances by child actors. Carson gets drunk and misscs a performance, after which the act gets no more bookings until he persuades his wife to accept Alda as a partner in his stead. To accomplish this he feigns a wish to break up their marriage, and things go on like that until the formalistic ending in which he returns to the stage in a blaze of glory. It is hardly a picture to date eras from, but the popularity of the nostalgic type of subject which it represents pre-supposes a satisfactory acceptance in most situations.

Running time, 92 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

W. R. W.

"Oklahoma Badlands"

(Republic)

CUSTOMARY cliches which usually identify "standard" Westerns are used aplenty in "Oklahoma Badlands," an Allan (Rocky) Lane starrer. Associate producer Gordon Kay and director Yakima Canutt were provided with nothing unusual in Bob Williams' screenplay, which has hero Lane pitted against villainous rustlers, with the cattle herd of a pretty rancher, Mildred Coles, representing the stake around which all the shooting, fisticuffs and galloping revolve. The film provides an hour of vicarious excitement which should be well received by youngsters and others for whom cowboy fare is the acme in film entertainment.

When the rustlers shot down young Jay Kirby they believed they had finally succeeded in finishing off the Rawlins family, but they didn't count on one Leslie Rawlins, a distant cousin. Lane leads the desperadoes, headed by genteel newspaperman Gene Stutenroth, to think he is Leslie when actually Leslie is Miss Coles. Of course, the gang is no match for straight-shooting, hard-riding Lane. Others in the cast are Eddy Waller, Roy Barcroft, Earle Hodgins, Dale Van Sickel and Claire Whitney.

Running time, 59 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 22.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

Publishers Testify on Ascap's Music Rights

Evidence purporting to show that performing rights to music are all vested in Ascap and that no competition exists in trying to obtain these rights was adduced yesterday at the trial of the Independent Theatre Owners Association members' New York trust action against the society.

The testimony was brought out in U. S. District Court here by Milton C. Weisman, counsel for the ITOA, during questioning of publisher members of Ascap who are on the society's board of directors.

M-G-M Advances Susse

ALBANY, N. Y., March 9.—M-G-M's office manager here, Edward Susse, has been promoted to Buffalo salesman, effective March 15. He will be feted by fellow workers on Friday night. The post of office manager will be taken over by Bennet Goldstein while who will also continue as head booker.

Asks Aid for Curfew

OMAHA, March 9. — City Welfare Director Tom Knapp has called on theatres here to schedule pictures so that children under 16 can get home for the 10 P.M. curfew.

TOA Board Accepts

(*Continued from page* 1)

less of the nature of the Supreme Court's decision in the appeal.

Exhibition can look forward to two or three more years of continued good business, TOA president Ted Gamble declared, on the basis of showmanship and the standard of product at present levels. Recent excessive living costs were partially responsible for the decline in attendance in some sections, he said as he pointed out that January grosses were seven to eight per cent those of a year ago. But, he added, the present levelling-off will be reflected in an upturn.

Amid a general feeling of coolness to the pending Congressional bill to have Ascap negotiate directly with producers on music licensing fees, the board referred consideration of action on the so-called Lewis proposal to the executive committee.

While pressing for reduction of the excise tax from 20 per cent to 10 per cent, TOA will work through its constituent units to prevent opportunistic moves by states, cities and counties to enact measures calculated to annex the sums represented by a Federal tax reduction, he also said.

Tomorrow's TOA session will open with a demonstration of large-screen television, and will close with a banquet in the evening.

New UK Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

decided that statistics should be obtained as soon as possible on the recent output of films and labor forces employed in individual studios at the present time, compared with an earlier date, Also to be sought will be particulars of the future program of production at each studio.

It was further decided that at the next meeting, consideration should be given to proposals put forward by individual members for increasing output and improving the efficiency film studios, as well as the removal of obstacles to maximum production.

Objects and functions as stated in the constitution are:

To establish a permanent medium for the regular exchange of views relating to the efficiency of the industry and the general standards of British film production;

To consult and advise on matters of film production with a view to securing maximum output, improving quality and stimulating workers' interest in production problems, and,

To consider suggestions from workers for production improvement, and to assist generally with the better organization and carrying out of production as planned by individual managements.

It is emphasized, however, that the committee shall not be a medium for negotiating wages, hours and similar trade questions, which are, generally speaking, covered by existing agreements.

It is considered also that the creative aspects of production are outside the scope of the committee's functions.

Tax-Free Admission Rise Sought in U. K.

LONDON, March 9.—Authority to increase theatre seat prices, with the dispensation that the increases be excluded from the entertainment tax, is being sought of the British Treasury by a deputation of representatives from the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association, Kinematograph Renters' Society, and the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employes.

The deputation asks that the increase be tax-immune on the grounds that employes' wages recently were increased by 50 per cent. The Treasury has promised to consider the matter.

Johnston 'Triumph'

(*Continued from page* 1)

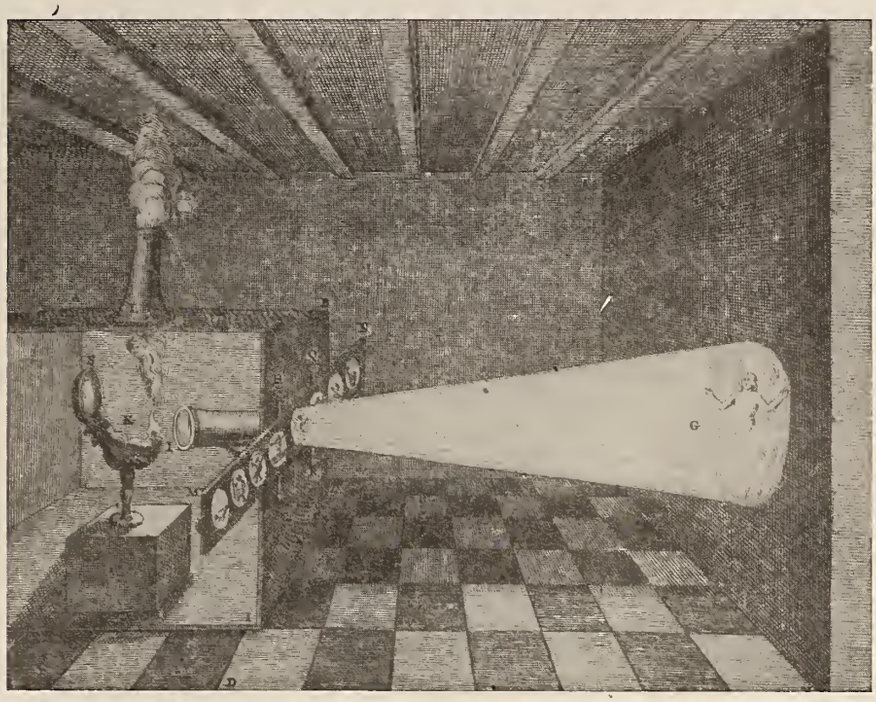
hibitors to have done with the tax. The MPAA head touched on the role of motion pictures in international affairs.

Wilson, even in his tributes to Johnston's "friendliness" and understanding of Britain's dollar difficulties, failed to evoke the response given to Johnston by the exhibitors. In a somewhat vague and facetious promise, Wilson declared: "There's a settlement awaiting."

After the affair, a government official privately reiterated the prediction that a compromise in the *ad valorem* situation would be reached tomorrow.

Columbia Signs Young

HOLLYWOOD, March 9. — Columbia has signed Collier Young, formerly with Warners and Goldwyn, as production executive.



The First Projector Pictured in 1671

MAGIC SHADOWS

The Story of the Origin of Motion Pictures

By MARTIN QUIGLEY, JR.

"..the enjoyable opportunity of following in detail the struggles of savants and quacks, of scientists and rogues, and of the thoughful and the crackpots who, in one way or another contributed to the march of motion picture progress during its pre-history.."

From a review by DR. ALFRED N. GOLDSMITH

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LD1 160 PD HOLLYWOOD CAL MAR 3 1948 221 P:

GEORGE STEVENS, RKO STUDIO=

:780 GOWER ST HOLLYWOOD CALIF=

SINCE SEEING "I REMEMBER MAMA" LAST NIGHT I HAVE REFLECTED OVER THE ENCHANTMENT OF YOUR DELIGHTFUL PICTURE DOZENS OF TIMES. YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO THE SCREEN A WONDERFUL STORY OF FAMILY LIFE WHICH IS FAR AND BEYOND ANY OTHER SUCH THEME IN ITS TRUTH, SIMPLICITY AND EMOTIONAL APPEAL. ALL PATRONS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SEE YOUR PICTURE WILL FONDLY RECOLLECT COUNTLESS SIMILAR EXPERIENCES WHICH OCCURRED IN THEIR FAMILIES. THE PERFORMANCES ARE ALL EXCELLENT. IRENE DUNNE AS "MAMA" IS SUPERB, WHILE BARBARA BEL GEDDES, OSCAR HOMOLKA, PHILIP DORN, SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE, EDGAR BERGEN, RUDY VALLEE AND THE REST DELIVER SPLENDID PORTRAYALS THIS IS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR YOU, GEORGE, AFTER BEING AWAY FROM THE SCREEN FOR FIVE YEARS. THE ENTIRE RKO FAMILY EXTENDS HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, HARRIET PARSONS AND ALL CONCERNED. IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE AND PLEASURE THAT WE UNDERTAKE DISTRIBUTION OF "I REMEMBER MAMA" THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT WILL OPEN AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL MARCH 11TH. WARM REGARDS=

:NED E DEPINET=..

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 48 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1948 TEN CENTS

Chicago Set as Site of TOA's Fall Conclave

2-Day Coast Meet Closes; Directors Endorse MPF

LOS ANGELES, March 10.—Officers and directors of Theatre Owners of America today closed a two-day session at the Ambassador Hotel here on a high note of confidence with regard to the future of the industry, and set Chicago as the site for the TOA convention which will be held either Sept. 21 or 28.

In a final statement, the directorate endorsed the plans for the Motion Picture Foundation, industry welfare organization, but postponed action with respect to the Motion Picture Forum, pending the Supreme Court's decision in the Government's industry anti-trust suit.

Ted Gamble, TOA president, was named to head a many-sided program to offset unfavorable public relations

(*Continued on page 7*)

Ascap in Move for Trust Suit Dismissal

A motion that the case be dismissed was made yesterday in U. S. District Court here by Louis Frohlich, counsel for Ascap, as the plaintiffs rested in the trust action brought against the society by Alden-Rochelle, Inc., and 160 other members of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York.

Decision was reserved by Judge Vincent L. Leibel. At the same time the court reserved decision on a similar motion entered by F. Gilbert, counsel for the music publishing firm of G. Schirmer.

Frohlich moved for dismissal on the

(*Continued on page 11*)

U. A. Will Release 'Time of Your Life'

HOLLYWOOD, March 10.—"All difficulties" between Cagney Productions and United Artists have been amicably settled, with "The Time of Your Life" to be released by UA immediately, under the terms of an agreement announced jointly today by William Cagney, Cagney Productions president, and Gradwell Sears, UA president.

The next Cagney picture may be made for another distributor, while the one following that will go to UA, it was said.

Would Resume Shipping To U. K. At Once

When a settlement of the British *ad valorem* tax impasse is set in motion, U. S. film companies will be prepared to resume almost at once the shipping tempo which was interrupted when the tax-inspired boycott was imposed last August, foreign department sources indicated here yesterday.

Within a month after the boycott is lifted, it is expected that film shipments to England

(*Continued on page 7*)

Sorrell: Good Labor Relations Are Vital

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Concluding his testimony on the Hollywood jurisdictional strike, Herbert K. Sorrell today told a House Labor subcommittee he hoped the committee would be able to settle the situation and asserted that "the motion picture business will go to hell if they don't get good labor relations."

The Conference of Studio Unions head told the committee, now in its fourth week of hearings, that labor

(*Continued on page 10*)

Defeat Stalks N.Y. Firemen's Aid Bill

ALBANY, N. Y., March 10.—The Fino-Clancy firemen's aid bill, described by exhibition and other facets of show business as a prospective "death blow" for many theatres in the state, appeared doomed to defeat today following a five-day onslaught of opposition from organized theatre operators, stage producers, sports promoters, labor unions and even private citizens.

Assemblyman William E. Clancy, co-sponsor of the measure, said tonight

(*Continued on page 10*)

St. Louis Exhibitors Consider Allied Unit

DENVER, March 10.—An Allied States unit for the St. Louis area is being considered by independent theatre owners of that area, who have invited John Wolfberg, president of Allied Rocky Mountain Independent Theatres, to aid in its establishment.

BRITISH FORMULA IS STUDIED HERE

American Reaction to Terms Favorable; Plan Before Parliament Today

The proposal for settlement of the British film tax problem negotiated by industry-government figures in London, and which is expected to be officially announced there today, was presented to heads of American companies yesterday in New York, Hollywood and Miami.

The utmost secrecy was imposed upon the several industry conferences on the tax settlement formula, despite which it was ascertained that the American reaction was favorable in the main and indications are that Johnston was authorized to accept the proposal with but few minor changes.

While there was no official disclosure of the settlement terms on the part of industry sources at the meeting here yesterday, it was learned that the formula agreed upon calls for a combination of remittances, blocking and investment of earnings in Britain in almost equal proportions.

Thus, if $16,000,000 is the maxi-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Universal Directors Are All Reelected

Wilmington, March 10.—All directors of Universal Pictures were reelected today at the annual meeting of stockholders held here. They are: Robert S. Benjamin; Nate Blumberg; Paul G. Brown; J. Cheever Cowdin; Preston Davie; Matthew Fox; William J. German; John J. O'Connor; Ottavio Prochet; Charles D. Prutzman; J. Arthur Rank; Budd Rogers; Daniel M. Sheaffer; G. I. Woodham-Smith.

Col. 6-Month Net: $725,000

Columbia's net profit for the six months ended Dec. 27 was $725,000, the company reported here yesterday. In the corresponding period of the previous year the net was $1,560,000. Earnings per share of common stock amounted to 90 cents, against $2.20 for the last six months of 1946.

Comparative earnings per share of common after preferred stock dividends were calculated on the increased

(*Continued on page 7*)

Kanturek: Break in Czech Impasse Soon

Executives of the industry met yesterday at a luncheon given at the Harvard Club here in honor of Louis Kanturek, Motion Picture Export Association supervisor of Eastern Europe. Kanturek, who arrived from Prague 10 days ago for conferences with MPEA vice-president and general manager Irving Maas, expressed confidence that solution to the present impasse in negotiations between MPEA and the Czech Film Monopoly for renewal of a distribution pact in 1948-49 would be reached within the next few months.

Present at the luncheon were: Norton V. Ritchey, Arnold Picker, Columbia; Louis Lober and Charles Goldsmith, Loew's; J. William Piper and Harry Bruckman, Paramount;

(*Continued on page 7*)

London Awaits Tax Peace Plan Today

LONDON, March 10.—With a report on the proposed settlement of the film tax problem scheduled to be sought in the House of Commons here tomorrow, the "iron curtain" concealing last-minute developments was clamped down heavier than ever here today to prevent "leaks" which could upset the negotiations even in their final hour.

Status of the settlement will be

(*Continued on page 7*)

Tax Settlement Seen 'Any Day' by Rank

Optimism that the British *ad valorem* tax will be settled "any day now" was expressed by J. Arthur Rank here yesterday on his arrival from London on the *Queen Elizabeth*.

Rank affirmed that he has rights to film the Olympic Games, but added that as far as he knows, this does not restrict American newsreel companies from filming the games. He revealed

(*Continued on page 7*)

Personal Mention

STEVE BRODY, Monogram-Allied Artists president, is in Atlanta from Jacksonville, en route to New York.

•

ERNEST A. MARX, general manager of the television receiver division of Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, is scheduled to leave New York this week for the Coast.

•

CHARLES REAGAN, Paramount distribution vice-president, will leave here Sunday for the Coast and then will vacation at Camel Back Inn, Phoenix, Ariz.

•

ANN VETSIS of Eagle-Lion publicity manager LEO BRODY'S staff, will be married to ANGELO ZACHARDOOLIS on Sunday at Holy Trinity Cathedral here.

•

MANNY REINER, Latin America sales manager for Selznick Releasing Organization, arrived in New York yesterday from Australia and New Zealand.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Warner International vice-president of Far Eastern and Latin American distribution, has arrived in Shanghai.

•

MILTON SPERLING, president of United States Pictures, and MRS. SPERLING have become parents of a daughter, their third child.

•

HAL HONORE, formerly associated with Golden State Theatres, has become manager of Westside Theatres, San Francisco.

•

GEORGE RAFT will return to New York tomorrow aboard the *SS Nieuw Amsterdam* after several weeks in Africa.

•

C. J. FELDMAN, Universal-International Western division sales manager, is due back in New York today from Chicago.

•

JESSE L. LASKY, producer, is due in New York Tuesday from Hollywood for the premiere of "The Miracle of the Bells" at the Rivoli.

•

HOMER ROCKWELL, president of the Association of Screen Magazine Publishers, will leave New York today for Coast conferences.

•

CARL DREYER, European director, is due here March 26 from Denmark on his first visit to the United States.

•

LEONIDE KIPNIS, president of Westport International, will leave here for Canada this week.

•

ALFRED HITCHCOCK, producer-director, is due here from Hollywood March 20, en route to London.

•

J. V. WASHBURN, Altec Service inspector in Washington, and MRS. WASHBURN are parents of a son.

•

GREGORY LACAVA, director, has arrived in New York from Hollywood.

News Briefs . . .

Harry and Jack Warner Hosts Today to Sir and Lady Warter

HOLLYWOOD, March 10. — Sir Philip Warter, chairman and director of Associated British Pictures, associate corporation of Warner Brothers, and Lady Warter, arrived here today, from New York, and will be guests at the Warner studios tomorrow at a luncheon to be given by Harry M. and Jack L. Warner. Producers, directors and stars will attend.

Five Per Cent Admission Tax Defeated in St. Paul Election

ST. PAUL, March 10.—Exhibitors are jubilant today over the defeat of the referendum in the primary election here which would have imposed a five per cent municipal tax on admissions. Vote against the tax was four to one.

Overwhelming defeat of the measure will likely halt similar efforts in other Northwest cities, in the opinion of exhibitor leaders. Joseph Finley, industry attorney, and Stanley Kane, North Central Allied executive director, directed the campaign against passage of the tax.

Swartz Names Ernie Frace to Head Sales Out of St. Paul

MINNEAPOLIS, March 10. — Branch sales office for Independent Film Distributors, Minneapolis, will be opened in Sioux Falls, S. D., March 15, with Ernie Frace in charge of selling, Don Swartz, IFD head, announces. Physical shipping will be continued out of Minneapolis, Swartz said.

Frace, veteran film salesman, formerly with RKO Radio and Paramount in Sioux Falls, will handle IFD sales in Western Minnesota and North and South Dakota.

Gets Rights to WB and Para. Films for Uruguayan Market

MONTEVIDEO, March 5 (Via Air mail). — Compania Nacional Exhibidora has acquired distribution rights to Warner's and Paramount's entire output, including a number of old films, for the Uruguayan market. The pictures will be offered at relatively low flat rentals instead of on percentage.

Thompson, Coyle to DuMont

Wade Thompson has been named sales promotion and advertising manager of television station WABD, New York, by Lawrence Phillips, director of the DuMont television network. James Caddigan, manager of program planning for DuMont, has appointed Harry Coyle manager of remote operations for WABD.

Stronger Power for Television

OTTAWA, March 10.—The estimated $191,000,000 scheduled to be spent by the government of Ontario to bring about a changeover from 25-cycle to 60-cycle power is expected to speed up television development since 60-cycle power is believed likely to provide clearer images and cheaper receivers.

Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Name Zanuck, Russell, Colman

HOLLYWOOD, March 10.—Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association made its annual "Golden" awards tonight to Darryl F. Zanuck for his production of "Gentleman's Agreement"; Rosalind Russell, for her acting in "Mourning Becomes Electra," and Ronald Colman, for his performance in "Double Life." The presentations took place at a banquet in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

The New York Foreign Language Film Critics' Circle will make its annual awards here tonight on a broadcast over Station WNYC. Producers of the best British film and the best foreign picture will be included among this year's award winners. George Archibald of the Rank organization; Charles Schlaifer, 20th-Fox publicity-advertising chief, and Ilya Lopert, head of Lopert Films, will participate in the broadcast. Master of ceremonies will be Sigmund Gottlober, executive director of the circle. Andrew Valuchek, president of the circle, will present the awards.

Directors' Guild Pact Expires Tomorrow; Seek 100% Raise

HOLLYWOOD, March 10.—The contract of the Screen Directors Guild with film producers will expire tomorrow, and the major change to be demanded by the guild for a new agreement will be an increase in the minimum wage for free-lance directors from $500 a week to $1,000 a week. The demands also include a minimum of two and a half weeks' pay for pictures costing less than $50,000, with sliding scale up to a minimum of 10 weeks for pictures costing between $175,000 and $250,000.

Kansas City Salesmen Plan Ball

KANSAS CITY, March 10.—At a meeting of various branches of the industry at the Hotel Phillips, here, a "movie ball" to be sponsored by film salesmen on May 3 at an undetermined place, was planned. Designed to be an annual affair, the profits will go to the welfare fund of the local lodge of the Colosseum.

•

Kiggins Heads Television Associates

CHICAGO, March 10.—Keith Kiggins has been named president, director and operating head of Television Associates, manufacturers of commercial telecasting equipment. He formerly was vice-president of American Broadcasting.

$7,412,000 for Canadian Houses

OTTAWA, March 10. — Contracts awarded for the construction of theatres in Canada during the 11 months of 1947 ending on Dec. 1 totaled $7,412,000, according to the Canadian government.

Soviet Composer in 'Dog House' Reviewed 'Russia' for 'Daily'

Aram Khachaturyan, noted Russian composer and one of three severely criticized in Moscow recently by the Communist Central Committee because, it charged, his music reflected bourgeois influences of the Western world, cabled the first Soviet review written for the American film press to MOTION PICTURE DAILY, in November, 1944.

The review was of "Song of Russia," M-G-M, which had recently opened in Moscow, from where the cable had been sent direct to the DAILY. Because there was no ministry of information in Russia, the cable must have cleared through the Soviet Foreign Office before it was filed.

Hit as 'Bourgeois-Minded'

Censured for not composing music hewing more to Soviet ideologies, the reputedly "bourgeois-minded" Khachaturyan had this to say of "Song of Russia":

"I think the film would have benefited all the more if the rich reservoir of songs born of this great patriotic war (World War II) was drained and if they were rendered not only through choruses, but symphonically developed as well," adding, "Music helps to promote friendship among nations."

"'Song of Russia'," he added, "is a tribute to the cultural collaboration of the American and Russian people."

Robert Taylor starred in "Song of Russia." Taylor's pictures were recently banned in Soviet puppet countries in Europe because he was among those who attacked Communism-in-Hollywood while a witness before the House Un-American Activities Committee in Washington. Of Taylor's performance in "Song of Russia," Khachaturyan had this to say, nearly four years ago:

Banned in Soviet Sphere

"Robert Taylor is to be congratulated on his performance in the picture."

In the review, the Soviet-censured Khachaturyan observed: "I . . . owe my rise to the (Soviet) government's support."

Board Approves New Building for MPAA

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Plans of the Motion Picture Association of America to build a new headquarters building here have gotten a "green light" from the District of Columbia zoning board, it was understood today.

Action is still subject to final approval at a board meeting on March 24, but an official of the board said an advisory opinion from the District Fine Arts Commission approved the plan, the board has given its tentative approval, and there is little doubt that final approval will be forthcoming later this month. MPAA plans to begin work as soon as possible on the first part of the new building—a theatre and projection room unit—and then add other sections of the building later.

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TO THE TRADE:

Warner Bros.
earnestly invite you
to attend
the industry-wide
showings of
the picture for which
we sent an entire
production company
to France–
stars, cast, director
and crew.
It is a picture
of rare excitement.



DENNIS MORGAN

AS THE MAN WHO SOLD HIMSELF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER

VIVECA LINDFORS

THE NEW STAR FROM SWEDEN – 1948's MOST IMPORTANT DEBUT!

TO THE VICTOR

TRADE SCREENINGS
March 29th

with VICTOR FRANCEN · BRUCE BENNETT · DOROTHY MALONE · TOM D'ANDREA · Directed by DELMER DAVES · Produced by JERRY WALD · Written by Richard Brooks

WORLD PREMIERE RA



O CITY MUSIC HALL!.....

DORE SCHARY
presents

IRENE DUNNE

in GEORGE STEVENS' *Production of*

REMEMBER MAMA"



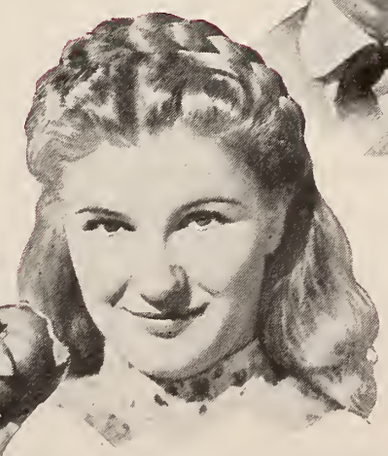
co-starring

BARBARA BEL GEDDES
OSCAR HOMOLKA
PHILIP DORN



with

Sir Cedric Hardwicke · Edgar Bergen · Rudy Vallee · Barbara O'Neil





RKO RADIO PICTURES

Executive Producer and Director GEORGE STEVENS
Produced by HARRIET PARSONS
Screen Play by DeWITT BODEEN
Based Upon the Play by JOHN VAN DRUTEN

Gov't Officials to 'Friendship' Show

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Warner Theatres has invited top Government officials and all Congressmen to the special premiere showing here on March 20 of "Thanks America," Italian film made in appreciation of the "Friendship Train."

The White House is also being sounded out, it is understood, on the possibility of President Truman being present.

The film, produced by Sandro Pallavicini and financed by contributions from several hundred thousand Italians, will have its premiere at the Warner Theatre. The special program will also include a showing of the Warner documentary, "Friendship Train," made at the special request of Harry M. Warner, national chairman of the Friendship Train Committee. Warner will fly in from Hollywood for the event.

Special photographic shots of the premiere will be flown to Italy.

$2,000,000 from Ohio Taxes in Year

COLUMBUS, O., March 10.—Seventy-nine Ohio cities which have admission taxes expect to raise $2,000,000 this year, according to C. Emory Glander, state tax commissioner. Glander said other Ohio cities are considering admission levies. Only three of the 79 cities have other than a three per cent tax, Glander found, Coshocton, Delaware and Piqua being the exceptions. Piqua and Cochocton use varying rates and Delaware has a bracket system. Cities in nine of Ohio's 88 counties did not enact admission levies.

Glander said estimates of the annual yield ranged from $2,000 in Miamisburg to $660,000 for Cleveland.

Ten Additional Films Given Legion Ratings

Seven of 10 additional films reviewed by the National Legion of Decency have been classified A-I, while three others were rated A-II.

The seven are: "Madonna of the Desert" and "Oklahoma Badlands," both Republic; "The Search," M-G-M; "They Passed This Way," United Artists; "Trail of the Mounties" and "Where the North Begins," both Screen Guild, and "West of Sonora," Columbia. In A-II are: "The Big Clock," Paramount; "October Man," Eagle-Lion, and "Road to the Big House," Screen Guild.

Heads Parade Committee

Nick John Matsoukas, Skouras Theatres executive, has been appointed chairman of the parade committee of the American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children. A parade will be staged along Broadway on April 12, launching the nation's Crusade-for-Children drive for $60,000,000, Spyros P. Skouras is New York chairman and Dan Wooley is vice-chairman.

Louisiana House Burns

NEW ORLEANS, March 10.—The Gale Theatre, 800-seat house at Raceland, owned by F. G. Pratt, Jr., was completely destroyed by fire. Loss is estimated at $60,000. This is the second time that the theatre has been destroyed by fire since 1943.

Reviews

"Madonna of the Desert"

(Republic)

A JEWELLED MADONNA belonging to a country rancher becomes the object of desire of an assortment of crooks in Republic's "Madonna of the Desert." The story, following standard melodramatic lines, has, however, been given considerable polish by associate producer Stephen Auer. Heading the cast are Lynne Roberts, Donald Barry, Don Castle and Sheldon Leonard.

The screenplay, by Albert DeMond, has Leonard, a Los Angeles crook, sending Miss Roberts to the ranch to use her charms in getting the madonna. However, she soon learns of the miraculous power of the madonna and her conscience reacts against stealing it. Another factor in her change of heart is her falling in love with the rancher, Castle. Complicating matters, another crook, Barry, gets out of jail, and decides to go after the madonna, too. In a final fracas, the two crooks shoot it out among themselves, the madonna remains safe, and romance flourishes. George Blair's direction keeps things moving briskly. The original story was by Frank Wisbar.

Running time, 60 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, Feb. 23, 1948.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"The Tioga Kid"

(Eagle Lion)

THIS picture may be something new for Eddie Dean, who gets a chance to play both villain and defender of the law, but it otherwise follows a strictly standard line involving routine gun fights, fisticuffs and a couple of songs.

Dean's fans certainly will find nothing to complain about, providing they do not mind the triteness of the story and the obvious similarity of location with previous Dean offerings. At least one song, "Driftin' River," has been used before. Dean's guns go off with the same clocklike regularity as ever, his horse kicks up clouds of dust as he chases the rustler-villains cross-country and his fist has its usual telling quality, tending to lift opponents into the air with the force of its blows.

Ray Taylor directed and Jerry Thomas produced. Ed Earl Repp wrote the standard Western screenplay. Besides "Driftin' River," songs include "Way Back in Oklahoma" and "Ain't No Gal Got a Brand On Me." Roscoe Ates fulfills his comic chores to satisfaction; Jennifer Holt pleases the eye as the heroine and Lee Bennett and Dennis Moore make convincing heavies.

Dean, a Texas ranger, brings back some stolen cattle to Miss Holt's ranch. He is mistaken for his twin brother, an outlaw sought by the law. Dean tangles with a gang led by Moore. Ambush and murder occur and in a final battle Dean, the villain, joins Dean, the ranger, in cleaning up the gang but is killed himself.

Running time, 54 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

"Paisan"

(Mayer-Burstyn)

ANOTHER superb film, one of striking impact, has been sent from Italian studios. The story of people caught in the onrush of war, it was produced and directed by Roberto Rossellini, who will be remembered for his "Open City." Unfolding on an ambitious canvas, the film is told in six parts, and uses a variety of languages, with English predominating. The film easily ranks among the best foreign pictures to reach these shores.

The six sequences are tied to the general theme of the Allied upward advance and conquest of Italy, and as the story rolls on, it gathers a hard, rhythmic power seldom achieved on the screen.

The first part deals with a "G.I." from Jersey and a local Italian girl, and the fate that overtakes them at the hands of the Germans. The second part concerns a little street orphan who steals the shoes of a Negro "M.P." while the latter is asleep. The third sequence is about another "G.I." who falls in love with an innocent Italian girl. When the soldier returns to the Italian town months later, he finds the privations of war have had a corroding effect on the girl's morals. Episode four goes into the death agonies of partisan fighting, as an American nurse goes searching for her lover, only to find him a victim of the war. In the fifth section is the cloistered retreat of a Franciscan monastery. Three American chaplains go there as guests and leave humbled and awed by the selfless dedication of the monks. The final is the brisk and exciting story of an O.S.S. officer and the doom that is meted out to him by the Germans.

This is but the barest outline of the picture. At times it has an almost spiritual dimension. The story is superbly acted, and the camerawork achieves an unpretentious poetry as it reflects the ghastliness of war. It is memorable drama, decidedly adult in theme, and often starkly realistic. Its booking possibilities easily go beyond the limits of art and foreign-language houses.

Running time, 120 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, not set.

M. H.

U.S., Canada Radio Makers to Meet

WASHINGTON, March 10.—U. S. and Canadian radio manufacturers will hold their fifth joint conference in Toronto on April 8-9 when the respective boards of directors of the U. S. Radio Manufacturers Association and the Canadian RMA meet at the Royal York Hotel.

"Duel's" Mexican Record

MEXICO CITY, March 10.—"Duel in the Sun" has established a record gross of $295,676 in its six months' exhibition here.

Bernhard Names Stern

Joseph Bernhard, president of Film Classics, has appointed Herbert Stern resident counsel of the company, here.

Newspaper Space Uncut: Emerling

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 10.—The industry hopes to spend as much in 1948 on newspaper theatre advertising as in 1947, "despite rising labor and production costs and new taxes imposed by some states and municipalities," Ernest Emerling, Loew Theatres' advertising director, yesterday told the biennial convention of the New England Newspaper Advertising Executive Association here.

Newspapers were urged to "recognize the motion picture theatre as a legitimate retail establishment," Emerling said, adding: "It has merchandise to sell which has peculiar interest to almost all of your circulation. Theatres are probably 90 per cent dependent upon the newspapers to sell that merchandise. This makes the theatre a good customer every day you publish, because it spends a larger percentage of its gross than perhaps any other retail advertiser in town."

Emerling further urged that papers discard "the 50-year-old tradition that for some mysterious, unexplainable reason the movie theatre is not entitled to the local retail rate for comparable linage—minus any cash discount, continuity rebates or other inducements offered to retail advertisers to increase linage."

"Give theatres the retail rate for the space they use and, at the same time, make it very plain that the theatre is buying display space and no so-called 'tie-up' or free publicity," he suggested.

FCC Gets Dozen New Video Applications

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Twelve more applications for television stations have been received by the Federal Communications Commission.

Video Broadcasting Co. applied for stations in Portland, Ore.; San Jose, Cal., and San Diego. Other applicants were: Sunshine Television Corp., St. Petersburg, Fla.; Central Broadcasting Co., Des Moines; State University of Iowa, Iowa City; Yankee Network, Springfield, Mass.; WTAG, Worcester; WARC, Rochester; Intercity Advertising Co., Charlotte; WACO Television Co., Waco, Tex.; Badger Broadcasting Co., Madison, Wisc.

Geo. Roscoe To Head Col.'s Atlanta Office

ATLANTA, March 10.—George Roscoe, manager of Columbia's Charlotte branch, has been assigned to a similar post here. He will leave Charlotte tomorrow to take over his new duties. Succeeding him will be R. D. (Skinner) Williamson, who has been on the Columbia sales staff in Charlotte for 13 years.

Oscar Katz Named CBS Research Head

Oscar Katz has been appointed director of research for Columbia Broadcasting, effective April 1, by Howard S. Meighan, vice-president.

1,000 Video Sets a Day

Television receivers are being produced at the rate of about 1,000 a day, the Radio Manufacturers Association discloses.

British Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

mum Britain will allow in remittances during 1948, as British government figures have said repeatedly, then a like amount would be frozen in Britain and another $16,000,000 could be invested there, probably in film production for world-wide distribution. The amounts specified are based on the approximately $48,000,000 earned by the American companies in Britain last year.

Remittance to Be Fixed

If 1948 earnings increased appreciably over that amount, indications are that the proportions blocked and to be invested in Britain would increase, but remittances would not.

It was unofficially reported that the agreement is tentatively scheduled to be effective for a minimum of five years and would be subject to review before then in the event of material improvement in Britain's financial and economic position. Britain's 75 per cent ad valorem tax would be repealed under the agreement.

It was reported that the formula, in addition to having been sent here for discussion and suggestions, also was telephoned to top company officials in Hollywood and to Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's; Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, and Jack Cohn, executive vice-president of Columbia, who were in Florida.

The secrecy surrounding yesterday's meeting here took on almost comic proportions at the offices of the Motion Picture Association of America, where it was held after having been called by Francis Harmon, head of the New York MPAA office. Apparently on instructions from Harmon, reporters who called at the office were told by Harmon's secretary and all other office attaches who were questioned, that no meeting was being held and none had been scheduled.

Straight faces and blank stares were maintained even when reporters told MPAA employes that company executives had been observed entering the offices.

Removed 'Tell-Tale Evidence'

Harmon also had the laden coat trees removed from view in the office corridor outside the meeting room in a further effort to throw the reporters off the track.

Among those attending the meeting here were: J. Robert Rubin, Joseph R. Vogel, Norton Ritchey, Murray Silverstone, Gradwell L. Sears, Gerald Mayer, W. C. Michel, Austin Keough, Abe Schneider, Joseph Hazen and others.

Industry officials explained that the secrecy surrounding the settlement had been largely imposed by the British who had indicated that, if the terms were publicly disclosed before their scheduled submission to Parliament today, the agreement would be cancelled.

Because the settlement involves the British tax, a legislative matter, British protocol insists that it be made known first to Parliament. The situation recalls the recent incident in which Hugh Dalton, former president of the Board of Trade in Brtiain, made a disclosure concerning new austerity regulations to a newspaperman before his message concerning them had been given to Parliament. Dalton resigned when the information was published.

Rank Here

(*Continued from page* 1)

that a meeting has been arranged with newsreel heads here to straighten the matter out.

Rank declared that he would have 24 pictures for American release between now and September and some 40 pictures by the end of the year. He asserted that eight of the pictures are already finished and awaiting shipment to the U. S.

He disclosed that during the period between December to February, attendance in his British theatres increased 4.7 per cent over last year. He also asserted that "there is no shortage of pictures for his theatres."

Rank said there was no plan to merge Gaumont-British and Odeon circuit but that there would merely be "a closer working arrangement between them," for sounder business reasons.

Rank was accompanied by his wife and his general counsel, G. I. Woodham-Smith. His schedule includes immediate discussions with Spyros Skouras, head of 20th Century-Fox, and this afternoon he and Mrs. Rank will be guests at a cocktail party to be given by his American associates, Robert S. Benjamin and Jock Lawrence. This evening he will leave for Boston where he will be a guest speaker, together with David Sarnoff, chairman of RCA, at Boston University's fifth annual Founders Day banquet tomorrow. Skouras also will attend the ceremonies. On his return to New York, Rank will remain here until March 17 when he will depart for Florida to spend a week as the guest of Robert R. Young at Palm Beach. Plans are being made for Rank to visit Washington on his way to California. He will sail for London on April 22.

Wolff and Eckman Among Other Arrivals on Queen Elizabeth

England has just about reached bottom of the backlog of new American pictures, Robert Wolff, managing director of RKO Radio British Productions, asserted here yesterday on his arrival from London on the *Queen Elizabeth*. Wolff declared that he is here on a routine visit and that after home office conferences, he will leave for Hollywood.

Another arrival was Samuel Eckman, Jr., chairman and managing director of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures, Ltd.

London Awaits

(*Continued from page* 1)

raised in the House by a question to be put to Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, who, it is generally believed here, will use this method to make public the announcement of the settlement.

A final conference may be held by Wilson and Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association, before the House convenes, presumably to give Johnston an opportunity to pass along any last-minute counsel received from members of his organization in America.

Johnston is tentatively scheduled to leave here by plane on Saturday.

500 Projectors for Reorientation Use

Washington, March 10.— Some 500 sound projectors and accompanying films will be distributed within a month to aid in the reorientation of Germans along democratic lines, the War Department discloses here.

The projectors will be distributed in Germany's American Zone.

US Forbids German Film Centralization

BERLIN, March 10.—Decentralization of the German film industry has been ordered by U. S. Military Occupation authorities to offset any type of production-distribution exhibition combines as existed before the war. It is the first formal order issued under the U. S. zone decentralization law promulgated more than a year ago.

Only exception in the order is that a producer may distribute his own product directly or through a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Shipping to U.K.

(*Continued from page* 1)

would be sharply increased to replenish the now almost negligible stock of American films in British vaults. Shipments at the outset will be funnelled quickly into British theatres before backlogs of prints are built up in exchange vaults.

First product to go to Britain, it was said, will be those pictures which were about to be sent last August when the boycott became effective. Their manifests are fully prepared, and so is the other paper work that is handled by film shipping agencies.

The Motion Picture Export Association is not expected to be involved in any way in the resumption of shipments to England, an MPEA spokesman said here yesterday, pointing out that although MPEA under the presidency of Eric A. Johnston participated in the policy-and-decisions aspect of the *ad valorem* situation, it is not expected to formulate plans and establish arrangements for the resumption of shipping. The only condition under which MPEA would step in to the point where it would be involved in shipping film to England would be the inclusion of Britain within the MPEA's sphere of operations.

Czech Impasse Break

(*Continued from page* 1)

Gordon E. Youngman, R. K. Hawkinson and B. D. Lion, RKO; R. W. Altschuler and Douglas T. Yates, Republic; Emanuel Silverstone and Albert Cornfield, 20th Century-Fox; Walter Gould, United Artists; C. A. Kirby, Universal, and John J. Glynn, Warner Brothers. From the Motion Picture Association of America were Carl E. Milliken, Edward T. Cheyfitz, Gerald M. Mayer, Theodore Smith and Frederick W. Du Vall. In addition to the honor guest and Maas, from the MPEA were Joe C. Goltz, Herbert J. Erlanger, Alfred P. Corwin, Frank J. Alford, Carl Selan, Sidney Lieb and Irving M. Eckstein.

TOA Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

by launching campaigns, on both national and local levels, to sell pictures collectively as entertainment, and possibly with weeks or months set apart for special drives.

The "Save-a-Life" campaign instituted here by Charles P. Skouras, president of National Theatres, was explained to the members and recommended for adoption nationally.

Set Up Unit on Delinquency

A committee, including non-TOA members, was appointed to formulate a campaign along the lines suggested yesterday by Attorney General Tom Clark to combat juvenile delinquency.

Si Fabian was elected first chairman of the executive committee.

No action was taken with respect to advanced admission scales, which matter was set aside for further study.

Loren Ryder, president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, told directors of the Theatre Owners of America this morning that television manufacturers have gone as far as they are going with the development of equipment and technique for theatre television unless and until theatre owners declare themselves with respect to their interest and intentions.

Ryder said facilities for putting television subjects on theatre screens by film transcription methods virtually equivalent to instantaneous exhibition are at hand although not yet available for general sale.

Witness Television Screening

Ryder and RCA's Fred Alvin addressed the TOA meeting following a screening of Paramount and RCA films made by local exhibitor Jim Nicholson, and projected in his Pickfair Theatre. Both Ryder and Alvin told the exhibitors the results witnessed are the best that can be expected while the present 525-line standard prevails and no work toward finding out how much improvement can be made by increasing linage has been done or will be until theatres display willingness to meet their share of costs.

Columbia Net

(*Continued from page* 1)

amount of common which was outstanding last Dec. 27. Number of shares outstanding then was 638,352, the number outstanding Dec. 26, 1946, was 622,782.

Operating profit for the latest period was $1,175,000, against $2,480,000 for the corresponding period of 1946. Provision for Federal taxes in the periods were $450,000 and $920,000, respectively.

W.E. Dividend

Western Electric's board of directors has declared a dividend of $1.00 per share on outstanding capital stock, payable on March 31 to stockholders of record on March 23. Included in WE's operations are those of Electrical Research Products.

More Ontario Premiums

TORONTO, March 10.—The policy of giving premiums is steadily growing among theatres in Ontario, particularly in neighborhood and rural situations, because of declining box-office revenue.

"NAKED

breaks at Cap on Bro

MARK HELLINGER'S

"NAKED CITY"

STARRING

BARRY FITZGERALD

and featuring

HOWARD DUFF • DOROTHY HART • DON TAYLOR

Directed by JULES DASSIN

Produced by MARK HELLINGER

Associate Producer: JULES BUCK

Screenplay by ALBERT MALTZ and MALVIN WALD

From a Story by MALVIN WALD

A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

* ***Ask Mr. Joe Vogel of Loew's about this sensational business***

CITY"

Ride high with U-I

all records*
tol Theatre
adway

Congratulations to Manager Greenman and his efficient staff whose fine theatre operation made the huge crowds comfortable . . . they didn't mind waiting for seats with this courteous treatment.

Firemen's Aid Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

it "may be on Friday's calendar," but he did not appear too certain. The current legislative session is slated to end Friday, but may be extended to Saturday.

Most significant assurance to date that the bill—which in its original form would have permitted any city fire commissioner in the state to assign at least two uniformed firemen to every theatrical or screen performance at fees of $10 per man for each show—will not pass at this session of the legislature comes with the report that Assembly Speaker Oswald D. Heck deems the measure "highly objectionable."

Heck, a top power in the lower house, is said to regard the bill's terms and conditions as unreasonable and capable of putting hundreds of small theatres out of business. It has been estimated that the bill in its original form would have cost the show business in New York State some $20,000,000 annually, with the bulk of that cost falling to film houses.

Heck and other legislative leaders believe Governor Dewey would not have signed the original bill, it was said, and doubt whether legislative machinery will permit a vote on the bill's softening amendments, offered yesterday, before the legislature's scheduled adjournment on Saturday.

IATSE and other representatives came here to explain the bill's "murderous impact." Harry Lamont, Theatre Owners of America chairman in Albany, and Leonard Rosenthal, counsel for Upstate Theatres, Inc., were among those who organized exhibitor opposition up-state. The New York City owners' fight was led by Oscar A. Doob, chairman of the executive committee of the Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association.

Schwartz and Reilly Assail Amended Firemen's Aid Bill

Fred J. Schwartz, president of the Metropolitan Motion Picture Theatres Association, and James F. Reilly, executive director of New York Theatres, yesterday issued a joint statement here attacking the Fino-Clancy firemen's aid bill. The statement said, in part:

"A memorandum circulated to the legislators yesterday by the Uniformed Firemen's Association suggests that the amendments to the Fino-Clancy Bill were made by agreement with motion picture theatre owners. This is not so. The sponsors' amendments were compelled by the exposure of the most extreme features of the original bill. The bill is still entirely bad in principle and in practice, and we join with other branches of the amusement industry in vigorous opposition to the bill as amended."

Review

"The Hawk of Powder River"

(*PRC—Eagle-Lion*)

SOMETHING of a novelty in the Western theme, "The Hawk of Powder River" has, as the outlaw leader, pretty Jennifer Holt, known in the film as "The Hawk." The production has all of the standard ingredients necessary to satisfy Western fans. Eddie Dean takes the lead, once again playing the Federal agent sent out to investigate a troubled situation. Also on hand, holding up the comic angles and helping Dean in and out of trouble, is Roscoe Ates, while June Carlson takes care of the slight romantic angle.

The original screenplay of George Smith has "The Hawk" terrorizing the town of Powder River and scheming to take over a ranch by killing off its rightful heirs. After the usual rounds of mixups and gunplay, Dean settles matters justly. A number of songs run through the proceedings, including "Black Hills," "Wild Country," "Punchinello" and "Rose Anne of San Jose." Jerry Thomas produced and Ray Taylor directed.

Running time, 54 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, April 10. M. H.

Labor Relations

(*Continued from page* 1)

relations were "the worst thing they have out there."

Asked by both Chairman Carroll D. Kearns and IATSE attorney Matthew Levy whether he had stated his case completely, Sorrell replied firmly: "I have stated all I wish to state at this point."

Sorrell said he would do anything in his power to clean up the situation and added, "You know how I feel about the opposing union, but I would still shake hands with them provided they treat me justly, and if they don't, I'll keep on fighting."

Rounding out his fifth day on the stand, Sorrell elaborated on the charge he made yesterday that Robert Denham, NLRB chief, was "in the pocket of the producers." The Hollywood union leader told the committee that in October, 1945, Maurice Benjamin, Motion Picture Association of America attorney, reported to a meeting of the producers that Gerald Reilly, former member of the NLRB, "was responsible for the appointment of Denham as trial examiner." Denham was trial examiner in the 1945 dispute over studio set directors. Sorrell told the committee that he received this information from Bart P. Guild, who attended the October meeting as a Republic representative.

Other points made in Sorrell's final appearance were: That the studio "lockout" was not over and that operation at the studios was far from normal; that major producers and the IATSE are "combining" in their demands to "make independents take men on who do not need work and make them put some in supervisory jobs"; that Willie Bioff is still operating in IATSE affairs.

New MBS Building

HOLLYWOOD, March 10.—One entire week of special programming and salutes on regularly scheduled broadcasts have set by Mutual Broadcasting from Sunday, May 16, through Saturday, May 22, in connection with the opening of the new $3,000,000 Mutual-Don Lee combination AM, FM and television broadcasting studios here.

Short Subject

"Photo Frenzy"

(*This Is America—RKO Pathe*)

As shown in the latest This Is America release, amateur photography is no longer an idle pastime, but America's No. 1 hobby, having some 20,000,000 fans. "Photo Frenzy" is a pictorial examination of a cross-section of these fans, their habits, hopes, efforts, and the immense industry they have spawned.

The subject is effectively done and is one of general interest. Jay Bonafield produced, and Larry O'Reilly directed and photographed. Running time, 16 minutes.

Brazil to Demand Import Licenses

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Brazil will soon require import licenses for practically all shipments, according to a Commerce Department announcement. Commerce officials said they expect films would be included.

The new ruling will take effect in "three to four weeks from Feb. 25," though there may be a brief period of grace for goods already in transit.

FILM BOOKER

Familiar with New York exchanges, to assist in operation of established exhibitor organization. Salary open. Must be available immediately. Write, citing experience and references to Box 412:

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630 Ninth Avenue, New York City

Key City Grosses

FOLLOWING are estimated picture grosses for current engagements in key cities as reported by MOTION PICTURE DAILY *correspondents.*

LOS ANGELES

"Three Daring Daughters" appeared ingest among newcomers on the first-run front, where business in general continues fair to dull in an unexplained contradiction of perfect weather conditions. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 10:

BLACK BART (U-I) and JIGGS AND MAGGIE IN SOCIETY (Mono.)—GUILD (965) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $7,100)
BLACK BART (U-I)—IRIS (708) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $7,100)
BLACK BART (U-I)—RITZ (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $10,300)
BLACK BART (U-I)—STUDIO (880) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $6,900)
BLACK BART (U-I) and JIGGS AND MAGGIE IN SOCIETY (Mono.)—UNITED ARTISTS (2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $15,400)
CALL NORTHSIDE 777 (20th-Fox)—CHINESE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $15,700)
CALL NORTHSIDE 777 (20th-Fox) and LET'S LIVE AGAIN (20th-Fox)—LOEW'S STATE (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $23,500. (Average: $21,700)
CALL NORTHSIDE 777 (20th-Fox)—LOYOLA (1,265) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $10,000)
CALL NORTHSIDE 777 (20th-Fox) and LET'S LIVE AGAIN (20th-Fox)—UPTOWN (1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $10,800)
IF YOU KNEW SUSIE (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY MEETS GRUESOME (RKO Radio)—HILLSTREET (2,700) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00). Gross: $17,000. (Average: $18,300)
IF YOU KNEW SUSIE (RKO Radio) and DICK TRACY MEETS GRUESOME (RKO Radio)—PANTAGES (2,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00). Gross: $15,000. (Average: $17,300)
INTRIGUE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Beverly Hills) (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 6 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,300)
INTRIGUE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Downtown (900) (65c-85c-$1.00) 6 days. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,600)
INTRIGUE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hawaii) ($1,000) (65c-85c-$1.00) 6 days. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,200)
INTRIGUE (UA)—MUSIC HALL (Hollywood) (490) (65c-85c-$1.00) 6 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,300)
MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA (RKO Radio—FOUR STAR (900) ($1.20-$1.80) 11th week. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $11,400)
PANHANDLE (Allied Artists) and LOUISIANA (Mono.)—BELMONT (1,600) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $6,000. (Average: $6,600)
PANHANDLE (Allied Artists) and LOUISIANA (Mono.)—EL REY (861) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $5,500. (Average: $7,000)
PANHANDLE (Allied Artists) and LOUISIANA (Mono.)—ORPHEUM (2,210) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,300)
PANHANDLE (Allied Artists) and LOUISIANA (Mono.)—VOGUE (800) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $6,000. (Average: $7,500)
SAIGON (Para.) and MR. RECKLESS (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Downtown) (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00). Gross: $27,500. (Average: $21,000)
SAIGON (Para.) and MR. RECKLESS (Para.)—PARAMOUNT (Hollywood) (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00). Gross: $14,000. (Average: $15,000)
THREE DARING DAUGHTERS (M-G-M)—EGYPTIAN (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $16,000. (Average: $13,900)
THREE DARING DAUGHTERS (M-G-M)—FOX WILSHIRE (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $16,000. (Average: $13,800)
THREE DARING DAUGHTERS (M-G-M)—LOS ANGELES (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $21,200)
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE (WB)—WARNERS (Downtown) (3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $16,300)
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE (WB)—WARNERS (Hollywood) (3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gros: $9,500. (Average: $12,400)
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE (WB)—WARNERS (Wiltern) (2,300) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $12,600)

ATLANTA

Business in local theatres is off due to the worst weather in Atlanta in the past five years. Estimated receipts for week ended March 10:

A DOUBLE LIFE (U-I)—LOEW'S GRAND (2,446) (12c-50c). Gross: $12,000. (Average: $14,000)
JEZEBEL (WB reissue)—PARAMOUNT (2,446) (12c-50c). Gross: $7,400. (Average: $8,000)
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE (WB)—FOX (4,446) (12c-50c). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $14,000)
TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE (WB)—ROXY (second week on a holdover from the Fox) (2,446) (12c-50c). Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,800)

BALTIMORE

Substantial openings for the first-runs and heavy weekend business are both bringing box-offices above normal business for new pictures. Holdovers are doing only fair. "A Double Life" and "Saigon" are big. Estimated receipts for the week ending March 11:

A DOUBLE LIFE (U-I)—CENTURY (3,000) (29c-37c-46c-54c, and 56c weekends). Gross: $17,250. (Average: $14,000)
THE BISHOP'S WIFE (RKO Radio)—TOWN (1,450) (29c-37c-56c) 3rd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $11,000)
A SLIGHT CASE OF MURDER (WB reissue)—MAYFAIR (1,000) (21c-29c-54c). Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000)
INTRIGUE (UA)—VALENCIA (1,466) (29c-37c-45c-54c, and 45c weekends) 2nd week. Gross: $4,750. (Average: $5,000)
IF YOU KNEW SUSIE (RKO Radio)—HIPPODROME (2,205) (29c-37c-50c-58c) 2nd week. With a stage show. Gross: $18,250. (Average: $17,500)
SAIGON (Para.)—STANLEY (3,280) (29c-37c-50c-58c). Gross: $17,000. (Average: $14,500)
SHOE SHINE (Lopert)—LITTLE (328) (29c-37c-56c) 2nd week. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,000)
TENTH AVENUE ANGEL (M-G-M)—KEITH'S (2,406) (25c-37c-44c-54c, and 56c weekends.) Gross: $12,500. (Average: $12,000)
AN IDEAL HUSBAND (20th-Fox)—NEW (1,800) (29c-40c-50c-56c). Gross: $13,000. (Average: $11,750)

BOSTON

Two more snow storms, one at mid-week and the second on Sunday, hurt receipts in the Hub. Normally, the heavy retail promotions with Easter in mind would bring crowds to the downtown district, but storms also hurt retail sales. "Call Northside 777," holding for a second week at the Metropolitan, led the town. Estimated receipts for the week ended March 10:

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (20th-Fox) and A WOMAN'S VENGEANCE (U-I)—MEMORIAL (2,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $24,000. (Average: $27,000)
CALL NORTHSIDE 777 (20th-Fox) and MR. RECKLESS (Para.)—METROPOLITAN (4,736) (40c-80c). Gross: $29,000. (Average: $28,500)
PERILOUS WATERS (Mono.)—BOSTON (2,900) (50c-$1.10). Stage show: Stan Kenton and band. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $28,500)
SAIGON (Para.) and LET'S LIVE AGAIN (20th-Fox)—FENWAY (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $4,600. (Average: $5,300)
SAIGON (Para.) and LET'S LIVE AGAIN (20th-Fox)—PARAMOUNT (1,700) (40c-80c). Gross: $13,200. (Average: $14,500)
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (Col.) and DEVIL SHIP (Col.)—ORPHEUM (3,900) (40c-80c). Gross: $28,000. (Average: $24,200)
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (Col.) and DEVIL SHIP (Col.)—STATE (2,900) (35c-80c). Gross: $17,000. (Average: $14,500)

New Orleans Income Cut 50% by Rains

NEW ORLEANS, March 10.—Record rainfall for March to date which flooded the entire territory, and which reached a height of from eight to 24 inches on downtown New Orleans streets, resulted in as much as a 50 per cent drop in box-office grosses throughout the territory last week. All exchanges were forewarned of flood conditions and shipments were made early enough to avoid miss-outs.

Practically wasted was an exceptionally good product lineup at downtown theatres. Heading the list was the Saenger, with "Call Northside 777"; "A Double Life" was at Loew's State; the Joy featured "Pittsburgh"; "The Bishop's Wife" was at the RKO Orpheum; RKO's Liberty featured "Badlands of Dakota"; "Time Out of Mind" was at the Center; at the Tudor was "I Walk Alone"; at the Globe, "That Hagan Girl"; the Strand double-billed "Saps at Sea" and "Cheyenne Takes Over"; the Poche had Joe E. Brown in "Harvey" on stage.

At Des Allemands, the Fun Theatre, belonging to Felix Touchard, Jr., was closed for two days because of high water.

Production Increases As Eight Films Start

HOLLYWOOD, March 10.—The production tally rose to 28 from last week's 24. Filming started on eight films while only four were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "Winner Take Nothing" and "Sweetheart of the Blues," Columbia; "Lady at Midnight" (a John Sutherland production) and "Born to Fight," Eagle-Lion; "Sofia" (Arpi), Film Classics; "Stage Struck," Monogram; "The Thrill Man," Republic; "Sunburst," Warner Brothers.

Shooting finished on "Rusty Takes a Walk," Columbia; "Hollow Triumph," Eagle-Lion; "Abigail, Dear Heart," Paramount; "John Loves Mary," Warner.

Ascap Trust Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

contention that the plaintiffs had failed to prove conspiracy or monopoly in presenting their arguments and had established no cause of damage.

In support of his argument, the defense attorney cited the consent decree entered into with the U. S. Government in 1941—a decree with which, he said, the society has complied with ever since. He contended that the plaintiffs had prospered during the period they paid the Ascap music tax.

Brandt Is Final Witness

Last witness called by the plaintiffs was Harry Brandt. During his cross-examination, Frohlich brought out testimony purporting to show that the Brandt houses had experienced prosperity while fighting Ascap's attempt to collect "moderate sums" for the public performance of the society's music.

Another witness called by Milton C. Weisman, counsel for the plaintiffs, was Deems Taylor.

Gamble, Brylawski, Myers, Kilroe, Finkelstein, Lewis Bill Witnesses

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Ted Gamble, president of the Theatre Owners of America, and A. Julian Brylawski, TOA legislative representative here, will present TOA's opposition to the Lewis Bill at the hearings scheduled to open here March 22 before a House Judiciary subcommittee, according to a telegram from TOA received by the committee today.

Myers to Head Allied Group

Allied States Association counsel Abram F. Myers is expected to shepherd a group of Allied officials in favor of the bill.

Edwin P. Kilroe, chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America's copyright committee, is scheduled to present MPAA's opposition, with Fulton Brylawski standing by as alternate.

Herman Finkelstein is slated to represent Ascap.



MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	EAGLE-LION	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIV.-INT'L	WARNERS
Feb. 1	THE WRECK OF THE HESPERUS Willard Parker D	ADVENTURES OF CASANOVA Arturo deCordova D—83 min. (812) (Rev. 2/19/48)	(Feb. Releases)	JOE PALOOKA IN FIGHTING MAD Joe Kirkwood C—75 min. (4709)		CAMPUS HONEYMOON Adele Mara C—61 min. (703) (Rev. 1/26/48)	(Block 2) NIGHT SONG Dana Andrews D—102 min. (806) (Rev. 11/12/47) DICK TRACY MEETS GRUESOME D—62 min. (809) (Rev. 9/29/47)	(Feb. Releases) YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME Jeanne Crain D—91 min. (802) (Rev. 1/16/48) (Wurtzel) DANGEROUS YEARS William Halop D—62 min. (804) (Rev. 12/16/47)			MY GIRL TISA Lilli Palmer Sam Wanamaker D—95 min. (715) (Rev. 1/20/48)
Feb. 8	THE WOMAN FROM TANGIER Adele Jergens D—66 min. (Rev. 2/4/48)	OPEN SECRET John Ireland D—70 min. (813) (Rev. 1/16/48)	HIGH WALL Robert Taylor Audrey Totter D—99 min. (815) (Rev. 12/17/47)	PERILOUS WATERS Don Castle D—66 min. (4707) (Rev. 11/10/47)			SO WELL REMEMBERED John Mills Martha Scott D—114 min. (807) (Rev. 11/29/47) WILD HORSE MESA Tim Holt O—61 min. (808) (Rev. 11/17/47)	CALL NORTHSIDE 777 James Stewart D—111 min. (805) (Rev. 1/21/48)	(Feb. Release) (Bogeaus) A MIRACLE CAN HAPPEN Paulette Goddard James Stewart Henry Fonda C—107 min. (Rev. 2/2/48)	(Feb. Releases) A WOMAN'S VENGEANCE Charles Boyer Ann Blyth D—96 min. (634) (Rev. 12/18/47)	
Feb. 15	PHANTOM VALLEY Charles Starrett O RELENTLESS (Color) Robert Young D—93 min. (Rev. 1/16/47)	TORNADO RANGE Eddie Dean O—56 min. (854) (Rev. 3/3/48)	(Reissue) GONE WITH THE WIND (Color) Clark Gable D—220 min. (Rev. 12/13/39)	ROCKY Roddy McDowell D—(4705)	ALBUQUERQUE (Color) Randolph Scott D—90 min. (4709) (Rev. 1/21/48)	OKLAHOMA BADLANDS Allan "Rocky" Lane O—59 min. (753) (Rev. 3/10/48)				SECRET BEYOND THE DOOR Joan Bennett Michael Redgrave D—99 min. (627) (Rev. 2/2/48)	VOICE OF THE TURTLE Eleanor Parker Ronald Reagan C—103 min. (716) (Rev. 1/26/47)
Feb. 22	TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH Dick Powell D—107 min. (Rev. 1/19/48)	TAKE MY LIFE Greta Gynt D—80 min. (814) (Rev. 2/10/48)	TENTH AVENUE ANGEL Margaret O'Brien D—74 min. (816) (Rev. 1/13/48)	(Allied Artists) PANHANDLE Rod Cameron D—87 min. (AA7) (Rev. 1/23/48)		MADONNA OF THE DESERT Lynne Roberts D—60 min. (704)	OUT OF THE PAST Robert Mitchum D—97 min. (Rev. 11/17/47)	(March Releases) GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT Gregory Peck Dorothy McGuire D—118 min. (806) (Rev. 11/10/47)			
Feb. 29		MAN FROM TEXAS James Craig D			CAGED FURY Richard Denning D—60 min. (4711) (Rev. 2/19/48)						I BECAME A CRIMINAL Sally Gray D—78 min. (717) (Rev. 2/10/48)
Mar. 7		THE WESTWARD TRAIL Eddie Dean O—58 min. (855) (Rev. 3/3/48)	(Mar. Releases) THREE DARING DAUGHTERS (Color) Jeanette MacDonald MC—115 min. (817) (Rev. 2/13/48)	ANGELS ALLEY Leo Gorcey D—67 min. (4708) (Rev. 1/22/48)	SAIGON Alan Ladd Veronica Lake D—94 min. (4710) (Rev. 2/4/48)			(Reliance) THE CHALLENGE Tom Conway D—68 min. (807) (Rev. 2/26/48)			(Reissue) ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (Color) Errol Flynn Olivia de Haviland D—102 min. (718) (Rev. 4/27/38)
Mar. 14	THE RETURN OF THE WHISTLER Michael Duane D—66 min.	THE OCTOBER MAN John Mills D—85 min. (816)	ALIAS A GENTLEMAN Wallace Beery C—76 min. (818) (Rev. 2/4/48)			CALIFORNIA FIREBRAND Monte Hale D—(654) THE INSIDE STORY Marsha Hunt D—(705)	(Block 3) I REMEMBER MAMA Irene Dunne Barbara Bel Geddes D—137 min. (Rev. 3/9/48)			(March Release) A DOUBLE LIFE Ronald Colman Signe Hasso D—104 min. (650) (Rev. 12/24/47)	
Mar. 21	ADVENTURES IN SILVERADO William Bishop D WEST OF SENORA Charles Starrett O	THE ENCHANTED VALLEY (Color) Alan Curtis D	THE BRIDE GOES WILD Van Johnson June Allyson C—98 min. (819) (Rev. 2/26/48)	DOCKS OF NEW ORLEANS (D—(4712)	MR. RECKLESS William Blythe D—66 min. (4712) (Rev. 3/3/48)	BILL AND COO (Color) D—61 min. (Rev. 12/26/47)	THE MIRACLE OF THE BELLS Fred MacMurray Frank Sinatra Valli D—126 min. (Rev. 3/2/48)	AN IDEAL HUSBAND (Color) Paulette Goddard D—96 min. (809) (Rev. 1/12/48)	(March Release) (Enterprise) ARCH OF TRIUMPH Ingrid Bergman Charles Boyer D—120 min. (Rev. 2/18/48)	THE NAKED CITY Barry Fitzgerald Dorothy Hart D—96 min. (651) (Rev. 1/21/48)	APRIL SHOWERS Jack Carson Ann Southern D—94 min. (719)
Mar. 28	SONG OF IDAHO Kirby Grant O THE SIGN OF THE RAM Susan Peters D—84 min. (Rev. 2/2/48)	RUTHLESS Zachary Scott D		(Allied Artists) THE HUNTED Belita Preston Foster D—85 min. (AA5) (Rev. 2/4/48)			FORT APACHE John Wayne Henry Fonda D—127 mins. (Rev. 3/10/48)	(April Releases) SITTING PRETTY Robert Young Maureen O'Hara C—84 min. (810) (Rev. 2/24/48)	ATLANTIS Maria Montez D	JASSY (Color) Margaret Lockwood Dennis Price D—96 min. (Rev. 2/5/48)	
Apr. 4	MY DOG RUSTY Ted Donaldson D	THE HAWK OF POWDER RIVER Eddie Dean O—54 min. (856)	(Apr. Releases) B. F.'s DAUGHTER Barbara Stanwyck Van Heflin D—108 min. (Rev. 2/17/48)		UNCONQUERED (Color) Gary Cooper Paulette Goddard D—146 min. (4705) (Rev. 9/25/47)	THE BOLD FRONTIERSMAN Allan "Rocky" Lane O	TARZAN AND THE MERMAIDS Johnny Weismuller D				TO THE VICTOR Dennis Morgan D
Apr. 11	PORT SAID Gloria Henry D		SUMMER HOLIDAY (Color) Mickey Rooney Gloria Henry D		THE BIG CLOCK Ray Milland D—95 min. (4713) (Rev. 2/16/48)		THE ARIZONA RANGER Tim Holt O	SCUDDA HOO, SCUDDA HAY (Color) Lon McCallister D—95 min. (811) (Rev. 3/3/48)			

[Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dran (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily Review Date.]

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 49 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1948 TEN CENTS

BRITISH TAX SETTLEMENT FREES $17,000,000, PLUS

Settlement A Good One, US Industry Feels

'Couldn't Have Hoped For More', Is Reaction

"It's as much as we could have hoped for."

This was the general feeling here among industry leaders regarding the British *ad valorem* tax settlement yesterday.

Typical of the comments which came from various quarters was the following from David O. Selznick: "Eric Johnston and James Mulvey have informed us that we are indebted to Ambassador Douglas, who has performed an outstanding service for the motion picture industry and for everyone in it from the 'grips' on the Hollywood stages to the producers and the theatre owners.

In expressing "delight" over the break in the tax deadlock, Paramount

(*Continued on page* 4)

Companies Tackle Post-Peace 'Kinks'

Next task for company officials following the London settlement which reopened the British market to Hollywood films is to find an agreement among themselves on the method of allocating to individual companies and independent producers the estimated $21,000,000 to $25,000,000 which may

(*Continued on page* 3)

Goldman Moves to Halt Ruling Review

WASHINGTON, March 11.—William Goldman Theatres, Inc., today asked the U. S. Supreme Court not to review a lower court decision in its favor in its treble damage anti-trust suit against major distributors.

Citing a statement by the distribu-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Rank Predicts Tax Peace Will Boost U.S.,U.K.Production

Increased production in both the United States and Great Britain will result from the settlement of the *ad valorem* tax dispute, J. Arthur Rank stated here yesterday.

The British film leader, who arrived in New York on Wednesday for a six-week stay in the U. S., indicated that the boost in production in his country would depend upon how soon increased studio space could be made available.

With the tax settlement Rank saw "very good" prospects for an enlarged market for British pictures in this country. He said that Great Britain desired "a continued flow" of Ameri-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Rank Organization Of Canada Formed

TORONTO, March 11.—Formation of the J. Arthur Rank Organization of Canada, of which J. Earl Lawson is president, was announced here today following the arrival of Rank on this continent for a series of business conferences with U.S. and Canadian associates.

"Matters of common interest to the different Canadian companies in this organization, which for operating ef-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Trial of Ascap Suit Ends Abruptly Here

The trust suit of Alden-Rochelle, Inc., and 160 other members of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York against Ascap ended yesterday in U. S. District Court here on the first day of argument by the defense. Decision was reserved by Judge Vincent L. Leibel. The trial lasted a week.

Louis Frohlich, counsel for the defense, called but two witnesses, Harry Brandt of the ITOA and Herman Greenberg of Ascap.

Frohlich elicited fom Brandt the ad-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Formal Pact Allows Additional Amount Equivalent to British Film Earnings Here; Britain Will Withdraw Its Film Import Tax

London, March 11.—The seven-month old impasse over the 75 per cent British tax on film imports and the resultant embargo on the shipment of American films to Britain ended today with ratification of a settlement agreement by government and industry representatives.

Highlights of Tax Settlement

FOLLOWING are the principal terms agreed upon in settlement of the British film tax and ending of the embargo on the shipment of American films to Britain:

1. The American industry will withdraw $17,000,000 of its annual film earnings in Britain, plus an amount equivalent to the earnings of British films in the United States, its possessions and the Philippines;

2. Balance of American film earnings in Britain may be invested there in any of 20 ways, which have not been officially described;

3. Residual balances not so invested may be used for other approved purposes which will not put further strain on Britain's foreign exchange position;

4. The British 75 per cent ad valorem tax on imported films will be eliminated;

5. The agreement is for four years of two-year periods each, beginning June 14, next, but is subject to review and renewal at the end of the first two years and also may be abrogated by either side at virtually any time during its span.

6. The permitted uses of American film revenues held in Britain will be under the supervision of a joint control committee comprising representatives of the British government and the American industry.

Under the agreement, American film companies will be permitted to take out of England $17,000,000 annually for two years beginning June 14, next, plus, an amount equivalent to the earnings of British films in the United States, its possessions and the Philippines.

Trade estimates place the latter amount variously at $4,000,000 to $8,000,000 for the first year of the agreement, and possibly more later.

20 Investment Sources

Unremittable balances of American film earnings, estimated at approximately $30,000,000 annually, may be invested in Britain in any of 20 ways reportedly approved but not yet officially itemized. Such investments would be under the supervision of a joint control committee consisting of representatives of the British government and the American industry.

The agreement contemplates that any residual balances not eventually disposed of in accordance with the above may be cleared through approved transactions which involve no strain on Britiain's foreign exchange

(*Continued on page* 3)

Britain Considers State Film Bank

London, March 11.—A clear implication that the British government is considering establishment of a state film bank was given in the House of Commons today by Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade.

In replying to questions put to him, Wilson disclosed the government's intention by saying he is exploring ways and means of assisting independent producers to obtain access to financing.

Personal Mention

IRVING MACK of Filmack Trailers, is in town from Chicago.

•

HENRY A. LINET, Universal-International Eastern advertising manager, will lecture on "Motion Picture Advertising" next Wednesday evening at the American Theatre Wing's "screen seminar" here.

•

GEORGE ARCHIBALD, managing director of Independent Producers, Ltd., a Rank production company, is in Doctors Hospital here, following an attack of pneumonia.

•

CHARLES P. SKOURAS, National Theatres president, left Los Angeles yesterday to preside at a meeting of Evergreen Circuit in Seattle.

•

ROY SYFERT, owner of the Ainsworth Theatre, Ainsworth, Neb., has entered Clarkson Hospital, Omaha, for an operation.

•

WILLIAM A. COLLERAN, Louis de Rochemont Associates director, left here yesterday by plane for South Africa.

•

NED DEPINET, RKO Radio distribution vice-president, has left Hollywood for a vacation at Phoenix, Ariz.

•

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS is in New York from the Coast.

Foreign Press Cites 'Agreement', Peck

"Gentleman's Agreement" was named the best American film of 1947, "Great Expectations" the best British production, and the Italian-made "Shoe Shine" the best foreign language-film in the annual awards of the New York Foreign Language Film Critics' Circle.

Individual awards went to Gregory Peck for his role in "Gentleman's Agreement," and Moss Hart for the screenplay and Elia Kazan for the direction of the same picture. A tie for the feminine star of the year went to Deborah Kerr, for "The Adventuress," and Rosalind Russell, for "Mourning Becomes Electra." Edmund Gwenn was voted best supporting actor, for "Miracle on 34th Street," and Gloria Grahame, Celeste Holm, and Ann Revere tied as best supporting actresses for their respective roles in "Crossfire" and "Gentleman's Agreement" for the latter two.

The awards were made last night in a broadcast over station WNYC. Taking part were Charles Schlaifer, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity director; Jean Holt of the J. Arthur Rank Organization; Ilya Lopert, president of Lopert Films; Andrew Valushek, president of the Film Critics Circle, and Sigmund Gottlober, president of the American Foreign Language Press, Inc.

Studio 'Lockout' Broke Pact: Cobb

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Zach Lamar Cobb, attorney for the studio carpenters, declared here today that the Sept. 23, 1946, "lockout" was a breach of the so-called "Beverly Hills contract" and that if the carpenters had returned to work afterwards they would have forfeited their property rights in the contract.

Says 'Open Shop' Was Imposed

Cobb told a House labor sub-committee, now approaching its fifth week of hearings on the Hollywood jurisdictional situation, that producers told the carpenters they could return to work after the "lockout" under an open-shop and not under the terms of the Beverly Hills agreement, and that if the carpenters had done so they would have yielded their property rights "under the Fifth Amendment." He declared that no member of carpenters' Local No. 946 has worked in the studios since the "lockout."

At the opening of the session Kearns read a telegram from Maurice Benjamin, attorney for the Motion Picture Association of America, which called "completely false" charges made by Herbert K. Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, that National Labor Relations Board trial examiner Robert N. Denham in the 1945 strike had been "in the pockets of the producers." Sorrell told the committee yesterday that Benjamin was reported to have said "the fix is in" in a conversation on the Coast.

Asks Action on Sorrell

Kearns also read into the record today a telegram from Jack B. Tenney, chairman of the California Senate Committee on Un-American Activities. Tenney stated that "the Sorrell case is of great importance to California" and asked that Sorrell's testimony be cited to the grand jury for action. "The California Senate Committee believes the evidence is overwhelming concerning Sorrell's Communist affiliation," he declared.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—National Labor Relations Board member John Houston, who, CSU head Herbert K. Sorrell said yesterday, should have disqualified himself from hearing the 1945 set decorators' case, said today that CSU attorney Abe Isserman knew at the time of his holdings in a Kansas theatre circuit and agreed with other attorneys that Houston should sit on the case. Houston said he had announced his holdings before he sat in the oral argument, and that all attorneys said they were sure he would act impartially.

Correction

Buchanan and Co., advertising agency here, has been retained by Samuel Bischoff Productions to handle national newspaper, radio and magazine campaigns for his forthcoming United Artists release "Pitfall." "Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven" was inadvertently mentioned here on Wednesday as a new Bischoff-Buchanan ad account. The latter film is Edward Golden's, advertising for which will be handled by Buchanan.

News Briefs

Previews, Not Managers Should Fix Film Length, Says Stevens

Reactions of a preview audience and not the desire of a theatre manager anxious to fit the length of a picture into his operations should determine the length of a film, George Stevens, producer-director of RKO Radio's "I Remember Mama," said in New York yesterday. He is visiting here from Hollywood.

"I do not advocate long pictures," Stevens said, "but it should be remembered that most of the money-makers during the past 10 years ran over two hours. I believe that if a picture is good and holds the interest of an audience, it is better to have it run two hours rather than one hour and a half."

G. S. Eyssell, managing director of Radio City Musical Hall, will be host to George Stevens at a reception here Tuesday afternoon in the studio apartment of the Music Hall.

Gamble to Begin Work On TOA Relations Plan

LOS ANGELES, March 11.—Ted Gamble, president of Theatre Owners of America, will leave here tomorrow to begin work next week on implementing the public relations and juvenile delinquency program adopted by the two-day TOA officers and directors meeting which closed here yesterday.

In the closing session, the board also ratified a plan for a "Humanitarian Week" as a means of obtaining funds by audience collections for various approved projects, including continuation of entertainment for veterans in hospitals. A committee to devise a permanent financing plan for support of the Will Rogers memorial at Saranac was also set up.

WU Applies for Television Relay; Northwest Broadcasting in Video

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Western Union has asked the Federal Communications Commission for permission to set up a television microwave relay system between Philadelphia and New York. The two points are now connected by an A. T. & T. coaxial cable.

The FCC has granted the Northwest Broadcast Company permission to build a television station in Minneapolis.

Plans for International Variety Meeting at Miami Are Approved

MIAMI, March 11.—At a pre-convention rally held in the local tent here tonight, 150 Variety Club barkers discussed and approved final plans for the Variety Clubs' international convention to be held here April 12-17.

K. C. Allied Unit Meets

KANSAS CITY, March 11.—First regional meeting of the Allied States unit of this area was held this week at Webb City, with some 50 exhibitors present. A forum on exhibitor problems was conducted. The local Chamber of Commerce was host at a luncheon for the members.

Firemen's Bill Is Killed in Assembly

ALBANY, N. Y., March 11.—The full weight of bitter opposition which exhibitors of New York State threw against the Fino-Clancy firemen's aid bill has succeeded in defeating the measure. The Assembly today killed the bill, which would have provided for payments to fire department pension funds by theatres for firemen attached to them.

Although the major burden of the battle was borne by motion picture theatre representatives, they had marshalled behind them the full support of all other branches of the entertainment industry.

Starr on WINS Series

Hollywood news, film reviews and interviews with film celebrities in New York will be included in the format of a radio series starting Monday over Station WINS and marking the return to the air of Martin Starr. "Movie Starrdust" is the title of the program.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
IRENE DUNNE in GEORGE STEVENS' Prod. of
"I REMEMBER MAMA"
Barbara BEL GEDDES Oscar HOMOLKA Philip DORN
Produced by HARRIET PARSONS
Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD to RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY LORETTA DAVID
GRANT - YOUNG - NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M.
ASTOR
B'way at 45th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

Robert Maureen Clifton
YOUNG • O'HARA • WEBB
"SITTING PRETTY"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE—ART MOONEY • BETTY BRUCE
Extra! AL BERNIE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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Tax Peace

(*Continued from page* 1)

position and which do not create any further claims on sterling. Such transactions might take the form of charitable or public uses, including the encouragement of arts and sciences.

Investment in British production stands topmost on the list of uses to which unremitted balances would be put. Th other approved investments in the sterling area—for instance, construction of theatres in South Africa—next in line. Support of civic and other social enterprises would be a third source for absorbing the balances.

Await Treasury Order on Tax

Britain agreed to withdraw the 75 per cent film tax as promptly as the necessary Treasury order eliminating the tax can be drafted.

Highlights of the agreement were first disclosed publicly to the House of Commons today by Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade. Wilson said that many details of the agreement are inescapably complicated and that many technical points still are in the process of being worked out.



Eric Johnston

Announcement to Commons was made immediately following a two and one-half hour conference with Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, and James Mulvey, representing the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, and the various negotiating committee members of both sides.

Opinion was unanimous here in praise of the pact, and observers, taking note of general public excitement over return of Hollywood films, predicated a vast upsurge in box-office revenue.

Weighed U. S. Reactions

At the conference, reactions of the American industry to the proposed settlement and accompanying suggestions from principals in the United States were taken into account. The setlement formula had been transmitted to the American industry heads by telephone on Wednesday.

Wilson described the agreement as "a triumph of good sense, good understanding and good neighborliness," and paid tribute to Mulvey, Johnston and their colleagues on the handling of the negotiations.

Johnston and Mulvey gave much of the credit for the settlement to the American Ambassador, Lewis W. Douglas, who paved the way for the negotiations in advance meetings with Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin and Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps.

Press Interview Today

Wilson, Johnston and Mulvey will meet the press for their first detailed interview on the settlement tomorrow.

It was stated that shipment of American films to Britain will be resumed immediately folowing withdrawal of the import tax.

Meanwhile, Johnston was confined to his hotel room tonight with a head cold, but British officials, anxious to clear up the technical problems arising from the compromise prior to the scheduled departure of Johnston and the American industry contingent on Saturday, were in conference with the U. S. group.

It is the present intention of both sides that the main structure of the agreement be maintained for four years. However, the agreement is divided into two periods of two years each with a provision for review at the end of the first period. It is understood, also, that the agreement can be abrogated almost at will by either side.

The remittable sum, $17,000,000 plus the equivalent of British film earnings in the U. S., covers not only earnings of new films to be sent to Britain but the earnings of films already in Britain.

Hope to Boost U. K. Films

During a subsequent brief debate in the House of Commons over the tax settlement provisions, Wilson expressed the hope that exhibition of British films in America would be greatly stimulated by the provision which adds to American remittances sums equivalent to the earnings of British films in America.

Replying to a question, Wilson said it would be difficult to estimate the American earnings of British films, adding that he thinks the settlement provision offers the maximum possible inducement for pushing British films in America.

Oliver Lyttleton, on behalf of the Conservative opposition, pointed out that the American earnings of British films are free now but will not be under the settlement.



James Mulvey

Wilson replied, "They're free but extremely small because of the difficulty of pushing British films in America. It is hoped that this agreement wil result in better showing of British films there."

Wilson told another questioner that Britain currently is remitting $50,000,000 annually, despite the existence of the tax, for American films now in England, including reissues. Under the settlement, remittances would be reduced to the $17,000,000 plus, he pointed out.

Wilson also told Commons that the settlement would have no effect on the British government's policy of encouraging maximum quality in British film production.

Asked whether the dollars concerned wouldn't provide a substantial gasoline ration, Wilson said the agreement would save, not cost, dollars.

"Why not buy food instead of films?" the questioner interjected.

Wilson made no reply.

FILM BOOKER

Familiar with New York exchanges, to assist in operation of established exhibitor organization. Salary open. Must be available immediately. Write, citing experience and references to Box 412:

MOTION PICTURE DAILY
1270 Sixth Ave., New York 20

A HAPPY SOLUTION

THE British tax situation was solved yesterday, bringing to friendly settlement the knottiest problem confronting the American industry in recent years.

No one of authority claims the solution is perfect, but practically unanimous is the conviction that the agreement is perhaps as close to it as conditions allow.

The American industry, steadfastly committed to the elimination of Britain's 75 per cent ad valorem tax, in itself confiscatory, wins on that score. The tax is out. The Labor Government, faced with a continuing series of economic crises and the need to preserve its dollar position, wins in the sense that remittances represent the total distance it felt it could travel.

In fact, Britain has gone about $2,000,000 beyond, or from the $15,000,000 annually which she originally proposed, to the $17,000,000 stipulated. The gain may be credited to the negotiation powers of Eric Johnston for the MPAA and James Mulvey for the SIMPP with a very vital assist at the Government level from Ambassador Lewis W. Douglas.

Dollars equal to the earnings of British films here also may be withdrawn. This may mean another $4,000,000 or $5,000,000 for a probable total of $21,000,000 or $22,000,000, whereas the rosiest of all prospects had been $24,000,000 under a 50-50 arrangement.

The problems on both sides were many and troublesome. But there are transcendent considerations which now begin to assume a correct perspective.

THE cause of Anglo-American unity which may prove a great force in establishing a balance in world affairs is re-affirmed.

On the industry level, Britain's flight of dollars is checked, but that flow of dollars from London to New York not dried up. Britain's exhibition industry—profits for its investors, salaries for its payrolls, taxes for the Treasury—is revivified. The danger of a creeping paralysis is eliminated.

America retains her largest and best overseas customer. Elimination of the tax probably will have a salutary effect on other nations to the end that a freer journey of film to these other nations becomes more likely.

The financial structure of the industry assumes greater confidence and more solidity. At home, the policy-makers who have been declaring that planning was difficult, if not impossible, because of London now have the decks cleared. They know where they stand. Knowing where that is, they may now proceed equally confident to push ahead. RED KANN

Settlement Brings Rise in Stocks

Film stocks on the New York Curb and Stock Exchange shot up from one to one and a half points yesterday with news of the British *ad valorem* tax settlement.

London, March 11.—Most leading film stocks advanced here on reports that the tax situation had been resolved.

Companies Tackle

(*Continued from page* 1)

be remitted annually under the agreement.

Company representatives have discussed the matter at length without reaching an agreement. Basis for division of the remittable sums may be found in the wartime allocation of the 50 per cent of British revenue remittable then. That was on the basis of proportion of business done by each company in Britain. However, independents were dissatisfied with that method and under the present agreement they are said to have assurances, obtained by James Mulvey of SIMPP, that they will receive an equitable amount of the remittable revenue. In consequence, independent producers, like distributing companies, are expected to approve it almost unanimously.

Formal Trade Agreement

The settlement is expected to take formal shape in a trade agreement signed by the British Board of Trade and for the American industry by Eric Johnston, MPAA president, and Mulvey.

Acceptance of the pact here was practically unanimous, everyone apparently recognizing that it was this or nothing, as both Johnston and Ambassador Lewis Douglas were convinced.

Unremittable earnings in England, it appears almost certain, will be used in part in production there. Also, such funds will be usable in sterling area nations everywhere, the companies here understand. Production in England probably will be on a pretentious scale to obtain product wholly acceptable here. This could have a noticeable effect on Hollywood production schedules, availability of stars, directors, producers, technicians, etc., some company officials point out.

Would Reduce Debts

It is also believed certain that unremittable funds could be employed in England to pay off almost all forms of indebtedness, including mortgages on studios, theatres, offices and other property.

Asks West to Spur German Pictures

Western occupying powers in Germany must spur film production in their zones if they hope to catch up with the aggressive film production program which the Russians are sponsoring, for ideological reasons, within their own zone. That is the conclusion of Joachim Joesten in his new book, "Germany—What Now?" just published (Ziff-Davis).

Industry Relieved

(*Continued from page* 1)

president Barney Balaban remarked that companies should use the interim period before the compromise becomes effective "to effect further reductions in production and other operating costs."

"The industry at the present time faces the problem of high operating costs, aggravated by a 4.9 per cent decline in world film rentals," he declared in part. "The effect of this is to wipe out practically all of its worldwide production and distribution profits.

"The compromise will cause a further reduction in the flow of dollars of somewhere between $20,000,000 and $30,000,000 annually."

'Get Our House in Order'

Calling for further economies, Balaban concluded: "Now that the British difficulties have been settled and we can look forward to an income from our principal customer in the foreign market, we can all settle down to the job of getting our house in order."

"The industry should never forget," said Selznick, "that the British have extended themselves at a time when they are fighting an economic struggle for their very existence. It is my hope that the industry will demonstrate in the future even more than in the past its eagerness to show its appreciation and its awareness of the importance to every American of the well-being of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

'Both Countries Will Benefit'

"It is obvious," Selznick concluded, "that the settlement will redound to the benefit of not only the American film industry, but also that of Britain; and this is as it should be since England is entitled to a fair share of the playing time of the screens of America."

Others also pointed out settlement will give a much needed lift to the American industry in its current difficulties and, at the same time, does not promise such a flow of revenue as to justify either a suspension or lessening of the production economy program underway in Hollywood.

The British viewpoint was expressed here by J. Arthur Rank, who arrived in New York from London on Monday. He said: "I am very pleased for both America and England. I have always been confident that when Americans and Britons sit down around a table to discuss a problem they can always reach a happy solution."

'Democratic Compromise, Beneficial To Both Sides,' Johnston Declares

LONDON, March 11.—Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, who is presently in London, today hailed the settlement of the British *ad valorem* tax deadlock as "beneficial to both sides."

Said Johnston: "It is not a British agreement nor a Johnston agreement, but a democratic compromise. Once again there will be a free flow of films from the United States to Britain, and we have avoided the consequences of a hazardous precedent.

'Mutually Attractive' Pact

"We have reached what we consider a mutually attractive agreement. On Britain's side, the acute dollar shortage position has been overcome without danger of harming the British economy. It will save the maximum amount of dollars for the United Kingdom. From our side of it, it will help greatly to keep Hollywood a going and flourishing concern."

Vast credit was given Johnston for has "statesmanlike" approach by observers, with Oxford University authorities showering him with tributes and suggesting that the MPAA head be given an honorary degree.

Bevin Expresses Delight

Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin, remarking privately that the compromise "in another step forward," expressed his delight.

Coast Officials Withhold Comment on Tax Compromise

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Pending official receipt of complete details of the *ad valorem* tax compromise agreed upon by British government and industry representatives, top level film executives here today declined comment on what effect the deal would have on production and the level of studio employment. Reopening of the British market to American films, it was generally indicated, is a welcome development, regardless of the fiscal aspects of the arrangement made.

Rank, Reels Talk Olympics Tuesday

The five American newsreels' protest against the grant to J. Arthur Rank of exclusive rights to film the Olympic Games in London this summer will be taken up with the British film leader at a meeting here on Tuesday.

That he had been given sole authority by the British Olympics Committee to shoot the games was confirmed by Rank yesterday. The reels, which would have to buy their footage from Rank, want him to clarify his intentions.

DutchAttendanceUp 40-50%: ter Linden

Film attendance in Holland is up 40 to 50 per cent over pre-war averages, according to J. J. ter Linden, president and managing director of the only major theatre circuit in that country that is completely Dutch-owned. Ter Linden is here to inspect theatres and new American product, as well as confer with executives of the Motion Picture Export Association.

The increase in attendance was credited to two factors: first to MPEA's policy of confining its exports to high-quality product, which ter Linden said, is giving tens of thousands of people the theatre-going habit. The second reason cited was the increasing recognition on the part of church denominations of spiritual and moral values in some motion pictures. Contrasted with the clergy's pre-war reservations on film attendance, clerical leaders, he explained, are now encouraging film-going to selected features, even on Sundays.

Ter Linden is accompanied on his trip here by his legal adviser, William M. G. Russell. Both will return to Holland on March 26.

Rank on Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

can films because it is realized there that without them the nation's film business suffers a sharp decline.

Rank disclosed that he had always been optimistic that once Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, sat down at the conference table in London there was certain to be a settlement of the tax situation.

To Assign Releases Here

He said that a decision on which of his pictures will be released in the United States by Universal-International and which by Eagle-Lion would be made during his visit here. Among new pictures involved are "Hamlet," "Oliver Twist," "Columbus" and "Scott of the Antarctic."

It was revealed by Rank that the film industry in Great Britain is awaiting a government decision on the right of private enterprise to employ television for large-screen exhibition in theatres. He said that should the decision be favorable, he would start televising in two of his theatres.

Rank estimated that, due to economy measures put into effect following the imposition of the *ad valorem* tax, production costs in Great Britain had decreased about 15 per cent.

E-L, U-I Officials on Hand

His press conference brought out an array of the J. Arthur Rank Organization, Universal-International and Eagle-Lion executives. On hand from the Rank Organization were Robert S. Benjamin and Jock Lawrence. Present from Universal-International were Matthew Fox, who also represented United World Pictures, William A. Scully, E. T. (Peck) Gomersall and Maurice Bergman. Eagle-Lion was represented by William J. Heineman, Max Youngstein and Jerry Pickman. Also present was George Ivon Woodham-Smith of London, general counsel for the Rank interests.

Last night Rank left for Boston to be a guest speaker at Boston University's fifth annual Founders' Day banquet today.

Rank of Canada

(*Continued from page* 1)

ficiency require maximum cooperation and coordination, will in the future be under the guidance and direction, as far as general policy is concerned, of the new company," Lawson explained. He also heads the various individual companies in the Dominion which represent these British film interests here.

Lawson also announced the appointment of James A. Cowan as director of publicity and public relations, effective immediately.

$11,000,000 Kodak Employes' Dividend

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 11.—Eastman Kodak will distribute its largest wage dividend, approximating $11,600,000, tomorrow to more than 49,300 employes. This compares with $8,100,000 paid to 48,800 a year ago.

This will mark the 36th wage-dividend payment since George Eastman established the plan in 1912, the total distribution since the plan was started exceeding $89,100,000.

Foreign Promotions Made by UA's Kelly

Arthur W. Kelly, executive vice-president of United Artists, has made the following appointments involving the company's operations in Europe and Latin America: Michael Green, formerly traveling auditor in London, has been made sales supervisor and auditor for Continental Europe. Green, who will continue to make Lond[illegible] his headquarters, is currently in Eg[illegible]n his initial assignment.

Henry Ronge, executive assistant to U.A.'s general manager in Cuba, has been named manager in Panama, succeeding Guy C. Smith. Smith has been appointed to take charge of the service bureau in Paris.

Other Latin-American changes include the appointment of Marcos Drukaroff as branch manager in Barranquilla, Colombia, replacing L. E. Londono, resigned, and Armando Bernal to head the company's office in Cali, Colombia.

Goldman Decision

(*Continued from page* 1)

tors that the decision, if unreversed, would ruin the industry, Goldman Theatres said, "We submit that to correct existing abuses is not to ruin but to restore the health of the industry."

Says Conspiracy Was Proved

The brief, filed by Goldman today, opposed a petition by the distributors seeking review of the decision of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding a $125,000 judgment in his favor and restraining the distributors from refusing to sell their pictures to Goldman's Erlanger Theatre, in Philadelphia. The brief maintains that in the lower courts Goldman had given sufficient proof of a conspiracy against the Erlanger and of the amount of damages suffered, and that therefore there was no reason for the high court to review the lower court's decision.

Goldman said that the distributors' argument that no proof had been offered of a conspiracy was "so unfounded" that even Warner defendants have refused to subscribe to it. The Warner brief seeking review asked *certiorari* only on the issue of damages, declaring that the "question of monopolization has become academic" by reason of new theatres acquired by Goldman and licensed by the distributors.

Cites Jackson Pk. Rule

Goldman says that since it never was able to operate the Erlanger, it could prove damages only by showing the receipts, operating costs and profits of comparable Warner theatres, and that this is the rule laid down in the Jackson Park Chicago case.

William A. Gray, Francis T. Anderson, Lester J. Schaffer and Robert Dechert signed the brief for Goldman.

Ascap Trial Ends

(*Continued from page* 1)

mission that in 1933-1934 the members of the ITOA negotiated with Ascap an agreement which they described as fair. Yet 10 years later, he argued, Ascap was sued on the grounds it was a monopoly.

Greenberg testified that four years ago producers flatly turned down a proposal to assume the payment of royalties on the performance of Ascap music in pictures.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 73. NO. 50 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1948 TEN CENTS

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Ascap Seeks 500% Boost From Theatres

Special Rates for Stage Show Houses 50c to $1.00

Music listening rate increases ranging up to 500 per cent over previous schedules will be sought by Ascap from theatres having regular stage show policies, according to informed reports.

The rates, based on seating capacities of such theatres, range from 50 cents per seat annually to $1 per seat. Most such theatres heretofore have paid 20 cents per seat annually to Ascap, the top rate classification for theatres under the schedules which ended last midnight.

Thus, in the case of 6,000-seat theatres such as the Radio City Music Hall and the Roxy here, the new payment sought by Ascap would amount

(*Continued on page 2*)

Ascap Will Reject 30-Day Contracts

Ascap will reject Allied States and other exhibitor licensee requests for short-term licensing agreements and may institute actions for copyright infringements against those using the society's music without approved contracts, it was learned at the weekend.

The new Ascap theatre licensing rates, representing 25 per cent increases over former rates, were negotiated by Theatre Owners of America and went into effect today. Ascap, it

(*Continued on page 2*)

Schwartz, Reade, Jr., Guide Trenton Unit

The RKO Theatres-Walter Reade Trenton-New Brunswick Theatres partnership's management was realigned at the weekend with the appointment of an operating committee consisting of Sol Schwartz, Walter Reade, Jr., and Frank Hirst, it was announced by Malcolm Kingsberg, partnership president, following a board of directors meeting. Committee's operational activity is subject to the board's approval.

Reade, Jr., was elected a director and secretary in place of his father, who resigned, and Schwartz and Hirst were elected vice-presidents.

Expect Decision on Odlum's RKO Shares

Hollywood, March 14.—A decision on Howard Hughes' offer for purchase of Floyd Odlum's holdings in RKO Radio was expected to be reached at a meeting this weekend of RKO executives at Odlum's Indio Ranch.

Conferees included N. Peter Rathvon, Dore Schary and Ned Depinet.

24 Houses Involved In 2 Circuit Deals

BOSTON, March 14.—Two deals involving 24 theatres have been consummated by Donald Jacocks and A. C. Kilpatrick of B. and Q. Theatres, with headquarters here, and the Aldon Theatre Corp. of New Jersey.

Jacocks and Kilpatrick have sold their 14 B. and Q. houses, in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and have purchased control of the 10 theatres of Aldon in New Jersey.

Daniel Finn, Warner divisional manager in New England, has acquired an interest in B. and Q. and will leave his Warner post to become general manager of that circuit.

Chapman Named FC General Sales Aide

Jules K. Chapman has been appointed assistant general sales manager of Film Classics, by B. G. Kranze, distribution vice-president. Chapman has been with the company almost since its inception more than five years ago.

Kranze also announced other appointments, including: Ted Birnbaum, as executive assistant to Kranze; Albert Mannheimer, as director of exchange operations; Arthur Reiman, to head the contract department; Louis Bernhard, head of playdates and liquidation; William Markert, chief of the print department, and Herbert Stern, head of the resident legal department.

Named Alternate to Geneva Conference

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Frank McCarthy, Motion Picture Association of America European manager, has been named by the State Department as alternate delegate to the United Nations Freedom of Information conference at Geneva from March 23-April 24. Former assistant Secretary of State William Benton is chairman of the U. S. delegation.

AGREEMENT ADDS DOLLAR SOURCES

Mulvey Praised on Role in Tax Talks

London, March 14. — The work of James M. Mulvey, representative of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, in the film tax settlement here earned glowing tributes not only from Eric Johnston, MPAA president, but also from Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, and all of the latter's officials.

In addition to his expert counsel during the negotiations, Mulvey obtained protective agreements for independent producers and rallied their support for the completed formula.

FBI: Script on 'Red' Card Is Sorrell's

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified as Herbert K. Sorrell's the handwriting on a Communist Party membership card and a receipt for a party membership book. Both documents were introduced as evidence by IATSE attorney Matthew Levy before the House Labor sub-committee hearings on the studio jurisdictional strikes.

Action to be taken by the House unit will be decided in executive session this week, according to Carroll D. Kearns, sub-committee chairman.

Burton A. Zorn, attorney for the Motion Picture Association of America, was on the stand at the close of the fourth week of hearings on Friday. He described as false charges by the Conference of Studio Unions head

(*Continued on page 2*)

T. Gamble Heads New Heart Committee

National Heart Committee, formed to combat heart disease has been organized with headquarters in New York City. Ted R. Gamble is chairman.

Among active sponsors are Robert Coyne, Walter Wanger, Samuel Goldwyn, Grantland Rice, Mrs. N. Peter Rathvon, Irene Dunne, Niles Trammell and Mark Woods.

Amount of British Film Earnings in Central, South America Included

LONDON, March 14.—The equivalent of earnings of British films in Central and South America and associated American territories, in addition to the sum of their earnings in the United States, its posessions and the Philippines, are embraced in the amounts remittable to American film companies under the settlement agreement reached last week, Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, said prior to his departure for New York on the *Queen Mary* yesterday.

Earnings of British films in the United States, possessions and the Philippines previously had been estimated at from $4,000,000 to $8,000,000 for the first year of the settlement agreement, starting next June 14. Earnings in the other associated American territories could boost the figure to $10,000,000, according to estimates. The amount would be remittable to the United States in addition to the $17,000,000 in remittances granted outright in the agreement.

Formal signing of the agreement took place at the Board of Trade here on Friday, with Johnston signing for the American industry, and Harold Wilson for Britain.

First investment which American companies can make with their blocked earnings here includes construction or acquisition of studios here

(*Continued on page 4*)

Dutch Quota Seen Abolished by Sept.

By Sept. 1 the film market in Holland will be "wide open" to all comers. This prediction came at the weekend from J. J. ter Linden, president and managing director of the only major theatre circuit in that country which is completely Dutch-owned. Ter Linden, visiting here until March 26, said a dropping of the quota restrictions will be of sweeping advantage to U. S. pictures, the most popular with the Dutch theatre-goers.

Present Dutch quota grants 32-weeks-per-year playing time to American pictures, and 20 weeks to films of other countries.

Personal Mention

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew's vice-president and treasurer, is due back in New York today from the Coast.

•

ROBERT SIODMAK, 20th Century-Fox director, and VICTOR MATURE and RICHARD CONTE, arrived in New York over the weekend from the Coast.

•

DON SWARTZ, head of Independent Film Distributors, Astor Pictures outlet in Minneapolis and Milwaukee, is in town for conferences with R. M. SAVINI, Astor president.

•

BEN BERK, general production manager of United Philippine Artists Films, left New York at the weekend for the Coast.

•

BERNARD R. GOODMAN, Warner exchange supervisor, will return here today from a tour of Southern and Western exchanges.

•

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Universal-International producer-star, will attend the United Nations sessions at Lake Sucess today and tomorrow.

•

WILLIAM B. JAFFE, industry attorney, celebrated his birthday last Thursday at a party attended by industry leaders and their wives.

•

SAM SPIEGEL, who recently organized Horizon Pictures with JOHN HUSTON, is in town from the Coast.

•

ALAN F. CUMMINGS, head of M-G-M branch operations, will leave here today for Buffalo and Albany.

•

SAM ISRAEL, Eagle-Lion studio publicity director, will leave New York today for Hollywood.

•

WILLIAM B. ZOELLNER, M-G-M short subjects head, has left here for Chicago and the Midwest.

UA Directors Approve Cagney Settlement

United Artists board of directors was understood to have ratified an agreement between the company and Cagney Productions for distribution of "The Time of Your Life" at the board's regular meeting here on Friday. The pact formally ends differences between the two companies over UA's release of the film. Gradwell Sears, UA president, will fly to the Coast to have the agreement signed.

Fielding Resumes N. Y. License Post

Benjamin Fielding who has been New York City Welfare Commissioner since last October will return as of today to his previous post of City License Commissioner. The License Department's operations are more closely related to film industry activities here than are those of any other top city administrative agency.

News Briefs

Samuel Wheeler Is Feted by Executives of Film Classics

A testimonial luncheon to Samuel Wheeler was given on Friday in the Astor Hotel, here, by executives of Film Classics, on the eve of Wheeler's departure for California to serve as executive head of the company's West Coast division. B. G. Kranze, FC sales vice-president, was toastmaster.

Joseph Bernhard, FC president, lauded Wheeler. Others who spoke were Jules K. Chapman, Al Zimbalist, Ted Birnbaum and Eugene Arnstein.

Selznick Withdrawing 'Paradine Case' for Indefinite Period

Selznick Releasing Organization is withdrawing "The Paradine Case" from release indefinitely. It is understood David O. Selznick made the decision on the theory the market will be short of important productions in six months or more.

"The Paradine Case" has had three runs, in New York, Miami and Los Angeles.

'306'-N. Y. Circuit Pact Is Concluded

A memorandum agreement was initialed at the weekend by representatives of IATSE projectionists' Local No. 306 here and New York affiliated circuits pending the drafting of the formal contract which will end the long-standing battle over working conditions which ended informally on March 6. The memorandum was initialed within a few hours of a unanimous vote of acceptance of the March 6 agreement by the full "306" membership. Herman Gelber, "306" president, then left here at the weekend for a month in Florida.

Fights W. B. Move to Drop Trust Charges

CHICAGO, March 14.—Lloyd Root, attorney for Saul Meltzer, owner of the Rivoli and Rockne Theatres and plaintiff in a $900,000 treble-damage anti-trust suit against 16 distributors and circuits here, on Friday filed a petition to quash a motion filed by Warner Brothers that charges against it be dropped on grounds it is not licensed to do business in Illinois, does not have a registered agent and does not produce pictures in Illinois. Hearings have been extended to April 1 in U. S. District Court.

Ed Fitzpatrick, 52

WATERBURY, Conn., March 14.—Funeral services will be held here tomorrow at the Immaculate Conception Church for Ed Fitzpatrick, 52, manager of Loew's Poli Theatre here since 1928, who died Thursday of a heart attack. He is survived by a son. Before joining Loew's Poli, he managed Poli houses in Worcester, Meriden and Bridgeport. Oscar A. Doob and John Murphy, Loew executives, will attend the rites tomorrow from New York.

End of Ban on New Building Is Nearer

WASHINGTON, March 14. — The House Banking and Currency Committee on Friday gave final approval to a decision to end, on March 31, the Government's power to limit theatre construction.

Debate will start in the House tomorrow on the Rent Control Bill, in which this power was included. The Rent bill passed by the Senate would continue the limitation power through April 30, 1949.

Ascap Will Reject

(*Continued from page 1*)

is reliably learned, will offer exhibitors licenses for a minimum of one year and a maximum of 10 years.

Allied States and some other exhibitor organizations have advised members to pay Ascap under protest for periods of as little as 30 days, in the belief that the Lewis Bill or pending litigation against Ascap may change the licensing picture in the near future.

Hearings on the Lewis Bill, which would require producers to obtain performing rights to Ascap music, instead of exhibitors, are scheduled for next Monday in Washington. Allied is a sponsor of the measure. Although Ascap has expressed a preference for that licensing method in the past and offered it to producers, who rejected it, four years ago, the society now is prepared to oppose the Lewis Bill, it is reported.

500% Boost

(*Continued from page 1*)

to $6,000 annually, compared with the $1,200 paid under the old schedules.

Operators of Broadway theatres on a stage show policy said they have received no notification of the increased rates from Ascap yet and added that they expected to be given an opportunity to negotiate before new rates are imposed.

The 25 per cent increases in Ascap rates for all theatres not on stage show policy became effective today. When those rates were announced Ascap noted that separate schedules would be set subsequently for stage show houses.

Ascap officials could not be reached for comment at the weekend on their demands on the stage show houses.

'Red' Party Card

(*Continued from page 1*)

that the 1945 decision in the set decorators case were "fixed."

Zorn also told the committee that IATSE president Richard Walsh has a reputation in the industry for being a "clean, decent and honest person."

He also called upon Kearns to revoke the charge of conspiracy between the IATSE and producers which the Congressman made at the opening of the hearings.

The hearings were recessed until Tuesday.

Newsreel Parade

THE arrival of J. Arthur Rank, along with other distinguished visitors, is highlighted in current newsreels. Also covered are the death of Jan Masaryk, the Chicago plane crash, sports, and other subjects. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 20—President Videla of Chile visits Antarctic; go-Maine plane crashes on takeoff. King Michael of Rumania visits America. Jan Masaryk dies. J. Arthur Rank arrives in New York. Eamon de Valera welcomed in New York. Alabama Governor Jim Folsom shows kissing talent. Olympic hopes. Curling meet champ. Dick Button returns. Barbara Ann Scott reception in Ottawa.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 20—The 1948 political pot starts boiling. King Michael here to learn about America. Chile claims Antarctic island. Fires sweep Jap capital. Kissing Jim Folsom. Rowing. Ski meet.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 124—Ship news: J. Arthur Rank, Mrs. Gretchen Fraser, Dick Button and King Michael arrive here. Governor Dewey wins first primary. All eyes on ice championship. Barbara Ann Scott reception. Jan Masaryk.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 58—Chilean expedition to Antarctic. Celebrities arrive on *Queen Elizabeth*. Twelve dead in Chicago plane crash. Government documents lost in Jap fire. Hardware hats. Baseball training. Ski meet.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 60—Jan Masaryk. British troops quit Palestine. Gen. Claire Chennault, Dick Button, Gretchen Fraser, J. Arthur Rank and ex-King Michael on *Queen Elizabeth*. National ski jump championships. Chile claims strategic bases. Ottawa hails Barbara Ann Scott. New hat fashions. Baseball training. Great Americans: Andrew Jackson.

Blizzard in Midwest Reduces Attendance

KANSAS CITY, March 14.—Downtown theatre attendance in the Midwest area dropped to one-third of normal the latter part of last week as a result of the severe snows and temperatures that reached below zero. In neighborhoods some theatres reported attendance as low as 12 persons.

In Western Kansas where the blizzard was most severe, a few theatres were unable to get print deliveries. However, no houses closed because of lack of product or the fuel shortage. Sam Abend of the Exhibitors Film Delivery commented that it was the worst weather for delivery in 25 years.

Berry Directed "Casbah"

John Berry's name was inadvertently omitted as director from the review of Universal-International's "Casbah," which appeared in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 8.

FILM BOOKER

Familiar with New York exchanges, to assist in operation of established exhibitor organization. Salary open. Must be available immediately. Write, citing experience and references to Box 412:

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All Your Days—

YOU WILL REMEMBER "ALL MY SONS"

It is difficult to sum up the essence of a motion picture by the use of slogans.

However, "ALL MY SONS" has that natural, human, emotional quality that leaves a lasting impression.

One of the reasons why this prize play comes out so gloriously on the screen is the care given to it, not only during production, but for months prior to production.

And, in entrusting the writing of the screen play and the picture's production to Chester Erskine, co-producer-director of the "EGG AND I", U-I felt confident that in his hands the picture would assay all the sterling qualities of the play.

Also, in selecting a director, U-I felt that Irving Reis, noted for his excellent work on the "BACHELOR AND THE BOBBY-SOXER", would have an unusual perception for the subject matter of "ALL MY SONS".

When you see "ALL MY SONS" you will be the beneficiary of the magnificent amalgam that results from all the elements of a production blending into a triumphant screen achievement.

There is not any one thing that you will remember about "ALL MY SONS"; instead, you will be deeply conscious of *all the things* that have gone into it.

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL presents
EDWARD G. ROBINSON
BURT LANCASTER
in
"ALL MY SONS"
with
MADY CHRISTIANS • HOWARD DUFF
LOUISA HORTON • FRANK CONROY
ARLENE FRANCIS • LLOYD GOUGH
A CHESTER ERSKINE PRODUCTION
Written and Produced for the Screen by CHESTER ERSKINE • From the Play by ARTHUR MILLER
Directed by IRVING REIS

Universal International

For that reason, Motion Picture Daily said:

"Great skill and talent in acting, writing and direction combine to make this screen version of the Arthur Miller stage play a professional achievement!"

and Film Daily said:

"Written and produced for the screen by Chester Erskine, the story is lucidly translated into film terms by Director Irving Reis. In each catagory of production, the treatment is top drawer!"

and summed up generally by Showmen's Trade Review:

"The way it has been written, acted and directed for the screen makes of it 94 minutes of superb entertainment!"

Remittances

(*Continued from page* 1)

and the productions to be made in them. From balances thereafter, a sum limited to $10,000,000 may be expended outside the film industry during the first two years of the agreement.

Wilson revealed a suggestion has been made, and remains to be explored, which would permit investment of the $10,000,000 in real estate, probably the hotel industry here, which would help Britain's tourist trade and earn additional dollars.

Wilson made it clear that the American companies will not be permitted to invest their blocked funds in theatres here without the consent of the Board of Trade, nor could they make any investment likely to conflict with legitimate British film interests.

A representative of M-G-M present at a Wilson-Johnston press conference here disclosed that his company intended to increase its production activities in England as a result of the tax settlement, plans calling for the services of many of the studio's Hollywood stars. Similar disclosure was made by a Warner Brothers representative.

MGM to Boost Its Activities

The M-G-M spokesman said that the company planned to expand its production in England to the extent of constructing new studios there.

At the end of the first two-year period of the four-year agreement, 50 per cent of the unexpended blocked funds, or $8,000,000, whichever is greater, can be carried forward to the second period to take advantage of prospects of better investing conditions which might prevail then for production or studio expansion here.

In no eventuality, however, is there any intention of permitting permanent freezing of balances or other expedients which might add an increased dollar drain on the country. The ultimate residue may be devoted to charitable or artistic purposes, and this prospect is regarded highly by the government.

There is no intention to restrict the number of American pictures which may be imported here, in this regard the box office being the obvious criterion of both quantity and value of films. An important consideration, however, is the likelihood currently of a 35 per cent quota eventuating.

Sees Jump in Earnings

Johnston said the amount in remittable dollars earned by British pictures in America in 1947 was several times larger than in 1946 and that he looks forward to future earnings two to three times greater than last year under the new arrangement.

Johnston repeated that the vital figure conditioning the American companies' dollar withdrawals from Britain is the net receipts, after distribution costs, of British pictures in America.

The 75 per cent film tax cannot be revoked before April because of the inevitable Parliamentary formalities. The complexity of an agreement covering national treaties, trade agreements and trading contracts involved in the settlement was emphasized with the implication that a great volume of work remains to be done before the agreement can become operative.

American films will begin coming in again immediately the tax has been repealed and irrespective of the June 14 effective date of the settlement agreement, which primarily relates to fiscal conditions.

New Treaties Will Be Needed

Revocation of the film tax will automatically include all countries as well as America, but it is likely that there will be trading in connection with it with respect to some countries, France, for example. This implies that separate treaties may be made later.

Wilson emphasized at a press interview the vast ramifications and difficult conditions embraced in the agreement and the attitude reflected therein which allowed "the good will of good neighbors."

Zukor Views British Film Tax Settlement as Being Favorable

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—The British revocation of the 75 per cent *ad valorem* film tax represents a realization that the government was ill-advised in passing that legislation, Paramount board chairman Adolph Zukor declared here at the weekend.

He voiced the opinion that the new arrangement would have a favorable effect, but declined to predict the extent to which it will change Hollywood's production level, budgetary commitments or employment.

Present general tightening of production costs, he said, are not essentially different from that effected after World War I, and is salutary in effect. He said entertainment quality, now as always, is the sole determinant to the success of any picture, regardless of cost.

Zukor paid tribute to Henry Ginsberg's Paramount studio operations and the product turned out, declaring all new pictures which he has seen are fully qualified to meet present or any likely future box-office requirements.

Skouras Emphasizes Films' World Role

BOSTON, March 14.—"The boundless possibilities of visual education as represented by motion pictures," were expounded here by Spyros P. Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox, at the forum on motion pictures at Founders' Day Institute, Boston University. Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, president of the University, conferred on Skouras the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. The same degree was received also by J. Arthur Rank. David Sarnoff, RCA president, received the degree of Doctor of Commercial Science.

"We of the American film industry," Skouras said, "do not deny access to films made in other countries."

Rank told the forum that he has made a bid to put his films into world markets, adding: "We are using British films as trade ambassadors for British goods—just as you have used American films to stimulate export sales of American goods."

Independent Producers on Coast To Discuss Settlement Tuesday

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—The effects of the British *ad valorem* settlement on independent producers of the U. S. will be considered at a meeting here on Tuesday of the membership of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers.



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VOL. 73. NO. 51 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1948 TEN CENTS

TOA Sets Up 5-Point Lewis Bill Assault

Gamble, Coyne, Others At Congress Hearings

Charges that the Lewis Bill will deprive theatres of their fundamental right to negotiate with Ascap and will virtually strip exhibition of its political strength, have been prepared by Theatre Owners of America for inclusion in a five-pronged attack on the measure when it comes up for its Congressional hearing in Washington next Monday.

This was disclosed here yesterday by Ted Gamble, TOA president, who said the line-up thus far of those who will condemn the bill at the hearing includes himself; Robert W. Coyne, TOA executive director; A. Julian Brylawski, head of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Washington (D. C.); Robert R. Livingston, Nebraska TOA; Ben Strozier, North and South Carolina Theatre Owners.

Gamble said that it is expected producer representatives will also be on hand to assail the bill which provides for producer payment of Ascap music

(*Continued on page 4*)

Majors Ship Films To British Vaults

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Motion picture companies airmailed a batch of films to Britain over the weekend, the first to be sent to the U. K. since last August, according to Commerce Department Motion Picture Consultant Nathan D. Golden.

Golden said that requests for licenses for the shipment came to his office, and by special arrangement the

(*Continued on page 4*)

Industry Unscathed In Two Legislatures

Washington, March 15.—Two of the 12 state legislatures in session this year have adjourned, with no legislation passed affecting the industry, according to John Bryson, Motion Picture Association of America legislative assistant.

New York and Virginia adjourned over the weekend leaving 10 more in session.

Myers Heads Allied Lewis Bill Witnesses

Washington, March 15.—Allied States counsel Abram F. Myers will head a list of five Allied witnesses scheduled to testify on Monday before the House Judiciary sub-committee in favor of the Lewis Bill.

The other Allied spokesmen will be: Sidney E. Samuelson, Allied of Eastern Pennsylvania; Trueman T. Rembusch, Associated Theatres of Indiana; Martin G. Smith, Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio and Joseph Uvick, Michigan Allied.

Sorrell Citation by FBI Is a Help: 'IA'

Announcement by J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that Communist Party membership documents had been signed by Herbert K. Sorrell, leader of the Conference of Studio Unions "was a long step toward ending labor union jurisdictional difficulties in Hollywood," the IATSE said in a statement issued here yesterday. Hoover's report on Sorrell was read into the record of hearings last Saturday in Washington by Carroll D. Kearns, chairman of the House labor sub-committee which has been conducting several weeks of hearings into the studio jurisdictional strike.

Richard F. Walsh, "IA" president, and Roy M. Brewer, international representative at Hollywood, will testify before the sub-committee today.

Kearns announced that he would report the FBI findings to Fred A. Hartley, Jr., chairman of the full labor committee, for consideration of action.

U's Cowdin Returns From London Visit

J. Cheever Cowdin, Universal board chairman, arrived in New York by plane yesterday from London, concluding a five week's trip abroad. He conferred yesterday afternoon with home office officials on various as yet unsettled aspects of the British film tax agreement closed in London last week.

Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, and Joseph Seidelman, vice-president, will arrive here from France by boat Saturday and Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel, and Mrs. Prutzman are scheduled to arrive by boat on March 24. All have been abroad since Feb. 10.

Kirsch Is Reelected Illinois Allied Head

CHICAGO, March 15.—Jack Kirsch has been reelected president of Allied Theatres of Illinois for three more years. The following officers and directors were elected for a one-year term: Van Nomikos, vice-president; Benjamin Banowitz, secretary-treasurer; Arthur Davidson, Lou Harrison, Charles Lindau, Ludwig Sussman, Richard Salkin, John Semadales, Samuel Roberts, James Gregory, Verne Langdon, Howard Lubliner, Joseph Stern, Sail Lockwood, Nate Slott, B. Charuhus and Jack Rose. Harry Nepo was reappointed sergeant-at-arms.



Jack Kirsch

Program Is Set for NCA Meet March 22

MINNEAPOLIS, March 15.—Program for the semi-annual convention of North Central Allied, to be held at the Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, March 22-23, has been practically completed by Stanley Kane, executive director, with the addition of a clinic on television and 16mm. competition to the business agenda.

In a switch of plans, NCA has cancelled its banquet scheduled for the evening of March 23 in the Nicollet, bowing to the plans of Variety Club of the Northwest to use the banquet hall for the evening to honor chief barkers. It will be a stag and NCA's invited guest speakers, Governor Youngdahl and Mayor Humphrey of Minneapolis, will be shifted to the same spot on the Variety program. E.

(*Continued on page 4*)

15 Day-Date Bookings For 'Bishop' on 'Loop'

CHICAGO, March 15.—In compliance with the Jackson Park decree, "The Bishop's Wife," released by RKO Radio, has been booked to play 15 outlying theatres day and date, March 26. The film closed a 10-week run at the Woods Theatre yesterday.

Also, M-G-M's "Song of Love" will follow the current run of "Good News" at the Monroe, becoming the third M-G-M film to play the house since it established a first-run policy. The Monroe is not restricted to the two-week "Loop" run limit imposed by the decree.

Ascap Stage Tax Added to New Schedules

Combination Houses to Pay 2 Separate Rates

While operators of combination film and stage show houses prepared yesterday to insist that they be given an opportunity to negotiate new music licensing rates for their theatres with Ascap, the society disclosed that the 500 per cent increase in the rates it is asking of such theatres is in addition to the new 25 per cent increase in rates for film theatres which Ascap put into effect yesterday.

In other words, the combination houses are being asked to pay the new music tax rates for film houses, an increase of five cents per seat for virtually all of them, plus 50 cents to $1 per seat annually for stage performances.

Rise to $1.25 Per Seat

Ascap's new stage show taxes, a new and separate levy, are 50 cents per seat for houses up to 800 seats; 75 cents for those up to 1,599 seats, and $1 for those of 1,600 seats and over. Since virtually all stage presentation houses are in the latter category, their new Ascap tax would be $1.25 per seat annually, compared with the former rate of 20 cents per seat.

Ascap still had not notified the combination film and stage show houses of the proposed new rates yes-

(*Continued on page 4*)

50 - 50 for "Arch", No Admission Rise

Hollywood, March 15. — "Arch of Triumph," Enterprise production being released by United Artists, will be sold on a 50-50 rental with guaranteed top playing time required. The distributor will not ask for an increase in admission prices.

In announcing "Arch" selling policy today, the Enterprise board said that although "the $5,000,000 invested" gives the company "the right to expect the purchasers of tickets to pay more, surveys indicated that higher potential profits will accrue from following a policy of regular admission prices on the basis of today's market."

Personal Mention

STEVE BROIDY, Monogram-Allied Artists president, who arrived in New York over the weekend, will be in Boston today.

•

JAY EISENBERG, of M-G-M's legal department, and IRVING HELFONT, of the home office sales department, have returned to New York from Montreal.

•

SAMUEL N. BURGER, Loew's International sales manager, will leave here tomorrow by plane for Oslo on a tour of Europe.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic distribution vice-president, has returned to New York from a tour of exchanges.

•

A. C. LYLES, Pine-Thomas press representative, and MARTHA VICKERS, actress, were married in Los Angeles yesterday.

•

LYNN FARNOL, Eastern advertising-publicity director for Samuel Goldwyn Productions, will leave here Friday for Hollywood.

•

HARRY ROSENQUEST, Warner Theatre department executive, will leave here today for Philadelphia.

•

HOWARD STRICKLING, M-G-M studio publicity head, is due here from the Coast at the weekend.

•

RUDY BERGER, M-G-M Southern sales manager, will leave here Saturday for a vacation at Miami Beach.

•

OSCAR F. NEU, president of Neumade Products, will leave here Thursday for Buffalo, N. Y.

•

DAVID GOLDING, London Films press representative in London, is in New York for a six-week visit.

•

HERMAN L. RIPPS, assistant Eastern division manager for M-G-M, is in Boston from Albany, N. Y.

•

IKE and HARRY KATZ, Kay Film Exchanges executives, are in town at the Hotel Astor from Atlanta.

•

RALPH COHN of Triangle Pictures has left New York for Hollywood.

Skouras, Rank Weigh Closer Odeon, G-B Tie

Plans to effect closer operation between the Odeon and Gaumont-British circuits were understood to have been discussed here yesterday at a luncheon meeting by J. Arthur Rank, British film and theatre leader, and Spyros Skouras, president of 20th-Fox, which holds an interest in G-B.

It was learned upon Rank's arrival here last week that he planned to take up closer working ties between the two British circuits during his stay in America. He made it clear, however, that no merger of the two is contemplated.

News Briefs . . .

Three Companies Win an Appeal In Action by Empire-Universal

TORONTO, March 15.—Three film firms have won an appeal in an action brought against them by Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., Toronto, alleging breach of a contract for distribution of certain J. Arthur Rank pictures in this country, the three being J. Arthur Rank Organization and Eagle-Lion Films, New York, and General Cinema Finance Corp., London. These were among eight firms in Britain, Canada and the U. S. cited in Empire-Universal Films' action, started in March, 1947.

By the judgment, present proceedings in Ontario against the three, which were awarded costs, have been set aside. Chief Justice Robertson of the Ontario Court of Appeals ruled that an affidavit entered by an official of Empire-Universal in the original suit was "fatally defective." He could not find "any statement of the fact that any contract or contracts were made, nor when or where any contract was made, nor who the contracting parties were."

Mexican Supreme Court Lifts Ban on Spanish Production

MEXICO CITY, March 15.—The Mexican Supreme Court set a precedent in domestic film censorship by ordering the ban on the Spanish picture "Bambu" be lifted. The ban was ordered by the Ministry of the Interior at the request of the Cuban government on the contention that the production disparages Cuba's national heroes and was appealed by Cinematograficas Unidos, the distributor.

To Appeal McLendon Decision

CHICAGO, March 15.—Thomas McConnell, attorney for B. R. McLendon of Dallas in the trust suit against eight major distributors and the Robb and Rowley and Interstate circuits, said today that he will appeal the dismissal of the suit announced a week ago. McConnell said the appeal probably will not be heard until the fall.

Anti-Censorship Meeting

The planning committee of the Stop Censorship Movement announced here yesterday that an all-arts meeting on the censorship question will take place on Tuesday evening, March 23, in the Hotel Astor, here.

New Canadian Board Member

OTTAWA, March 15.—Jean Charles Falardeau has been appointed a member of the National Film Board of Canada.

Island Theatres Suit Against Liggett Dismissed by Court

Justice Aaron Steuer of New York Supreme Court here dismissed yesterday Island Theatre Circuit's injunction suit against Jules E. Liggett and two other former Island employes who had launched their own buying-booking service and included among their customers former customers of Island. In dismissing Island's "customer-taking" complaint, Steuer ruled that Liggett had a right to leave Island's employ, to start in business for himself, and to service any accounts which were formerly serviced by Island. Both Island and Liggett operate as buyers and bookers in the New York Metropolitan area.

Cole Sues to Force Metro-Goldwyn To Reinstate Him Under Contract

HOLLYWOOD, March 15. — Lester Cole, dismissed by M-G-M following his refusal to tell a Congressional committee whether he is a member of the Communist Party, has applied to Federal Judge Leon Yankwich for a court order forcing the studio to reinstate him in the employment contract which he maintains is still in force. Yankwich took the matter under advisement.

MPA to Send 30 Children to Health Camp This Summer

The Motion Picture Associates will be host at Camp Moodna, Mountainville, N. Y., this summer to 30 underprivileged children whose parents are in any way connected with the film industry here. Last year the MPA took care of 12 children at camp.

Russell, Meredith at UJA Rally

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Harold Russell, Academy Award winner, was one of the featured speakers at a rally here for the United Jewish Appeal, with 2,000 persons in attendance. A variety show was headed by Burgess Meredith.

Theatco's Suit Is Postponed

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15. — Theatco's suit against the Golden State Circuit, Fox West Coast and eight distributors has been set back to July 6.

Rogers Reports 18 Delivered

Having announced a program of 26 releases for 1947-48, Realart has already delivered the first 18, announces Budd Rogers, vice-president.

St. Louis Tax Falls Short

ST. LOUIS, March 15. — First month's returns on the city's five per cent amusement tax netted $44,482 from motion picture theatres on gross receipts of $889,000. With stage and sports levies added, the tax return was only $51,530, well below the estimated return at the rate of $750,000 per annum.

Expect Jackson Park Ruling After Easter

CHICAGO, March 15.—Decision on the Jackson Park Theatre contempt hearings which ended March 5 is not expected to be announced until sometime after Easter, when Federal Judge Michael J. Igoe will return from a vacation.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
IRENE DUNNE in GEORGE STEVENS' Prod. of
"I REMEMBER MAMA"
Barbara BEL GEDDES Oscar HOMOLKA Philip DORN
Produced by HARRIET PARSONS
Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

BING CROSBY BOB HOPE DOROTHY LAMOUR in "ROAD TO RIO" with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA CATHY ALLEN DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

"A VERY FUNNY PICTURE"—Sun
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
CARY GRANT - LORETTA YOUNG - DAVID NIVEN
"The Bishop's Wife"
Doors Open 9:45 A.M. ASTOR B'way at 45th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You Knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

The Adventures of Robin Hood
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
STARRING ERROL FLYNN OLIVIA deHAVILLAND
BASIL RATHBONE • CLAUDE RAINS
REISSUE
WARNER THEATRE 50¢ To 1 P.M. EVERY DAY TAX INC.
B'way 51st • Opens 10:30 AM • Late Midnight Film

JAMES CAGNEY PAT O'BRIEN DENNIS MORGAN "The FIGHTING 69th"
IN PERSON RUSS MORGAN AND HIS ORCH.
Plus! PHIL FOSTER
REISSUE
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9:30 AM B'WAY AT 47th
LATE MIDNIGHT FILM

RUSSELL JANNEY'S "THE MIRACLE OF THE BELLS"
starring FRED MacMURRAY Valli FRANK SINATRA
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

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Parsons Plans Two Pictures Annually

RKO Radio producer Harriet Parsons said here yesterday that she envisions a big step-up in Hollywood production as a result of the British film import tax settlement. In New York for a month's vacation from the Coast, Miss Parsons said she hopes to produce in her own name for RKO Radio at least two pictures a year, under a contract which runs to 1954. Her latest is "I Remember Mama," co-produced with George Stevens.

Pointing out that about seven women film producers have emerged within the last three years, Miss Parsons said she believes women with industry experience will turn toward producing in ever increasing numbers. Experience and background are the important prerequisites for doing a good film-making job and a producer's sex does not enter at all, Miss Parsons maintains. "But there are still some studios where women cannot have a chance to produce," she said, citing M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and Paramount as examples.

Hollywood, Miss Parsons holds, should have the courage to bring social and political problems to the screen, and every so often should shy away from pandering to the standard film demands of the public. The public, she feels, should be asked to "go along" with Hollywood when it has something new to offer.

De Rochemont Plans 'Digest' Pictures

The RD-DR Corp. has been incorporated in Albany by Louis de Rochemont to make documentary films, both features and shorts, based on material published in *Reader's Digest*.



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AFL Unions, Builders Devise Peace Plan

Washington, March 15. — Presidents of 19 American Federation of Labor building trades unions have approved a plan worked out with the nation's contractors for settlement of jurisdictional disputes in the construction industry without resort to strikes. The plan, already approved by the contractors, will be put in effect soon and may be the end of many headaches for persons contemplating theatre construction.

Pay Raises for 298 In Columbia Award

Wage increases ranging from $6 to $10 were granted some 298 Columbia home office employes in a decision handed down by the Arbitration Board, the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild announced here yesterday. Increases are retroactive to last Sept. 27.

Grant Paramount Motion

Paramount's motion for a stay of arbitration in the conflict with the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild was granted here yesterday by New York Supreme Court Justice Morris Eder. The dispute arose out of some recent employe layoffs by the company.

Eagle-Lion Reshapes Southern Territory

Eagle-Lion's Southern territory in the future will comprise the New Orleans, Atlanta, Charlotte and Memphis exchanges, William J. Heineman, distribution vice-president, announced yesterday.

The change is in line with the company's policy of realigning sales assignments and rezoning of districts to promote more efficient operation of its distribution department.

Heads E-L Omaha Branch

Edward Cohen, former salesman for Universal and 20th Century-Fox, has been named Eagle-Lion's branch manager in Omaha.

Video Set-Making High

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Television receiver production continued to climb in February to a new peak as over-all set manufacturing remained at a high seasonal level and the output of FM-AM receivers advanced above the January figure, the Radio Manufacturers Association reported today. RMA members reported the manufacture of 35,889 television sets during February, bringing their total production since the war to 250,937.

Actors, Studios Negotiate

HOLLYWOOD, March 15. — Negotiations for a new contract, to supplant the present one, which will expire next July 31, have been started here by representatives of the Screen Actors Guild and major producers.

Municipal Taxes on Theatres Growing

CHICAGO, March 15.—City admissions and amusement taxes are being widely adopted, says a report by the Municipal Finance Officers Association. Spectacular example of the trend cited was the adoption of admission taxes by 79 Ohio cities almost simultaneously after the state government abolished its admissions tax. Annual admission tax collections are expected to reach $660,000 in Cleveland, $300,000 in Cincinnati, $155,000 in Columbus and $140,000 in Dayton. Most of the Ohio cities impose a tax of three per cent on theatre admissions.

Chicago imposed a three per cent tax on admissions late in 1947 and expects a yield of $2,250,000 this year. Bloomington, Ill., has levied a four per cent tax on gross receipts, St. Louis recently adopted a five per cent tax on admissions.

Newsreelers Agree On Forrestal Plan

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Representatives of newsreels and other information media today agreed on what course to take in response to Secretary of Defense Forrestal's plea for some voluntary suppression of military and other defense news, but refused to make public details of their plan until it is presented to a larger cross-section of information officials later this month.

Walton C. Ament, Warner-Pathé vice-president, who represented the newsreels at today's meeting, said that he thought the meeting of the full group would be held here March 29.

Rains Wash Out Film Grosses in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS, March 15.—Wind, cold, and rain combined to lower box-office grosses throughout the territory. Winter made a surprise reappearance during the week, immediately following a record rainfall which submerged city streets to a depth of 10 inches and more and left outlying districts flooded for several days.

The White Hall Theatre, at White Hall, has been closed.

G. O. Langheinrich, 58

MILWAUKEE, March 15.—George O. Langheinrich, 58, treasurer of the Independent Motion Picture Theater Owners' Association, and owner of the Burleigh Theater, with his brother, Paul, died here at the weekend from a heart attack. Langheinrich, a member of the mayor's advisory council, leaves a widow, Della, a son, Orville P., and the brother.

Services for LeVien

Christopher LeVien, 79, father of John D. LeVien, news editor of Warner Pathe News, was buried yesterday in Pinelawn Cemetery, Farmingdale, L. I. Also surviving are the widow, Rose, and another son, Arthur. He died suddenly Friday night following his return from Florida.

Eidelsbergs' Father, 75

Hyman Eidelsberg, 75, father of Frederica Eidelsberg of Vanguard Films and Rose Eidelsberg of Paramount, died here Saturday, and was buried Sunday. Other survivors are Sarah, the widow, and two other daughters.



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TOA, Lewis Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

license fees; would terminate Ascap's direct dealings with theatres.

The three other contentions which TOA will use to condemn the bill, Gamble said, are: (1) It would give virtual authority to a dozen or so companies (producing) whose interests are not parallel to theatre interests; (2) film rentals would be increased considerably to include the producer-absorbed fees as well as administrative costs which the Lewis Bill would impose on producer-distributors; and (3) a dangerous loophole is posed in that no allowance is made for possible use by theatres of incidental Ascap music, suggesting that a special fee would be in line for theatres which chose to use such music in conjunction with occasional stage contests, organ or piano intermissions, etc.

Ascap Mum on Proposal

Indications are, Gamble said, that Ascap will speak neither for or against the bill at the hearing, a circumstance which he said would point significantly to Ascap's being against the measure. Gamble is confident that Ascap is completely satisfied with the music license rates it set recently following negotiations with TOA.

Describing the bill as a "red herring," the TOA president said that "by virtue of the fact that they own performing rights, the producers are poor people indeed to represent theatres as a fee-collecting agency."

MPAA Also in Opposition

It is known that Motion Picture Association of America also opposes the Lewis Bill, and Edwin P. Kilroe, chairman of MPAA's copyright committee, is expected to testify against it at Monday's hearing. Allied States, which sponsored the bill, and the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatres Owners will, of course, appear in support of the measure.

Reade, Jr., Miller Elected Heads of TOA of N. J.

Walter Reade, Jr., has been elected national director, and Maurey Miller has been named president of the Theatre Owners of America of New Jersey, national TOA's newest member unit, which claims a membership of 79 New Jersey theatres.

Other officers are: Adam Adams, treasurer, and Harold Blumenthal, secretary. TOA headquarters here said yesterday that Blumenthal will soon begin a tour of New Jersey to enlist new member theatres.

TOA Public Relations Meeting

Theatre Owners of America's public relations committee will hold its first meeting in New York next week, Ted Gamble, TOA president, disclosed here yesterday.

Golden to Film in U.K.

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—Golden Productions has slated "Charlemagne" for production in England in 1949, executive producer Edward A. Golden announces. Pictures will be based on an original by Earl Baldwin. Robert S. Golden, who is now preparing "What Every Bride Should Know" for Selznick Releasing Organization, will produce "Charlemagne" following "Barnstorming" which is next on his Golden Productions agenda.

Review

"Summer Holiday"

(*Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer*)

LET it be said, first off, that this is one of those buoyant pictures which, if properly and forcefully sold to both exhibitors and theatre patrons, can very well emerge as one of the year's outstanding grossers. One has but to sift carefully the film's ingredients to conclude that the foregoing statement is a valid one.

To begin with, it is based on Eugene O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness!" which M-G-M converted into a highly lucrative motion picture back in 1935. It stars Mickey Rooney, giving him an Andy Hardy type of role that outshines, or at least equals, the best he has done in that series. Produced in radiant Technicolor, under the discriminating eye of Arthur Freed, it was directed in fine style by Rouben Mamoulian and supports and is supported by a wealth of acting talent. Besides Rooney, it has Gloria de Haven, Walter Huston, Frank Morgan, Butch Jenkins, Marilyn Maxwell, Agnes Moorehead and many others.

"Summer Holiday" is a musical version of "Ah, Wilderness!" It is almost an operetta. But let that deter no exhibitor. It has bounce galore and the capacity to instill in an audience a warm glow of happiness and a joy-of-living feeling that spells complete customer satisfaction. This is one of those rare musicals that loses none of the flavor of a straight drama original in the process of adaptation. Certainly it deserves to be backed up by salesmanship and promotion of high order.

Is there anyone versed in theatre lore who isn't familiar with O'Neill's account of the ebullient, almost precocious, turn-of-the-century adolescent, his puppy-love affair, his tongue-burning taste of worldliness? It's an hilarious theme and to say that Rooney is a "natural" for the role is an understatement. He's perfect! So are Huston, as the understanding and tolerant father; Selena Royle, as the bewildered mother; Morgan, as the tippler uncle; Miss DeHaven, as the fearfully sweet and shy girl-friend; Miss Maxwell, as the actress of questionable morals who almost succeeds in luring Rooney into wrong-doing; Butch Jenkins, as the little brother who so charmingly gets in everyone's hair and makes 'em like it.

Between the laughs embodied in the tale of 1906 family, academic and vacation life, there come bursts of song and occasional dialogue in rhyme which mellow the proceedings and charm the senses. The outstanding musical number is "The Stanley Steamer." Lennie Hayton's musical direction rates high. This is a beautifully polished piece of merchandise that should enjoy a big commercial future. Irving Brecher and Jean Holloway did the adaptation, from the screenplay by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.

Running time 92 minutes. General audience classification. For April release.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

NCA Meets March 22

(*Continued from page* 1)

R. Ruben, W. H. Workman, Maitland Frosch, John Ancil Branton and Ben Blotsky, past chief barkers, will be presented with Variety rings. A. W. Anderson and William Elson previously were presented with rings.

Kane said that the initial speech of national Allied president William L. Ainsworth at the NCA meeting will include a discussion of Paramount's action in billing and posting in Faribault (Minn.) in an alleged attempt to force Will Graser to contract for Paramount product at high prices. (NCA president Ben Berger is expected to make the Paramount-Glaser fight one of the main issues in an attack on "coercive" film rentals.)

Sidney Samuelson, exhibitor leader and head of Allied's caravan service, will headline his attack on film rentals with a blast at the Minneapolis 20th-Fox branch in a dispute with an Allied Caravan subscriber over terms on "Captain from Castile."

Ascap Stage Rates

(*Continued from page* 1)

terday, and most operators learned of the proposal through MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Contracts are being printed, it was said, and will be ready in 10 days or two weeks. They are intended to be retroactive to yesterday.

Plan New Theatre

MILWAUKEE, March 15.—Fox Wisconsin Amusement Corp. will operate a new theatre to be built at Whitefish Bay, as soon as Federal restrictions are lifted. The building will also contain offices and stores.

Majors Ship Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

licenses were cleared and sent to New York immediately. He refused to give the number of films involved or the names of the companies, but said that "most major distributors took part."

Golden said that the licenses covered shipment of several million feet to the U. K. through the end of June. He said the largest single license was one for 450,000 feet for 20th Century-Fox.

Place American Films in Bond Pending Tax Revocation Order

LONDON, March 15.—American pictures being received here now will remain in bond until the order revoking the British *ad valorem* tax has been acted upon by Parliament sometime after Easter. Renters, meanwhile, are feverishly making provisional drastic changes in their releasing schedules, and a bottleneck is expected to develop in the West End of London in connection with pre-release showings in face of a mounting public demand for new U. S. films.

U. S. films already received include product of Warners and 20th Century-Fox.

Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, now en route back to the U. S. on the *S.S. Queen Mary*, plans to return here in July for conferences designed on the tax settlement.



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VOL. 63. NO. 52 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1948 TEN CENTS

House Votes to Drop Curbs on Theatre Bldg.

Measure Would End Power as of March 31

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The House voted today to let all Government controls over theatre and other amusement construction die at the end of the month.

It took this action by dropping such power from a rent control bill passed today. The measure now goes to conference with the Senate, whose rent bill continues the construction limitation power through April 30, 1949.

While it is still too early to predict what the conferees will do, chances are that they will go along with the House action letting the power die March 31.

Says Sorrell Showed 'Red' Card in 1937

WASHINGTON, March 16.—A former West Coast unionist who played a brief role in the 1937 studio jurisdictional strike, today told the House Labor sub-committee investigating the Hollywood labor trouble that he had seen a Communist Party membership card belonging to Herbert K. Sorrell, head of the Conference of Studio Unions.

John R. Robinson, a marine engineer, said that in 1937 Sorrell had shown him the card, bearing the signature "Herb Stewart," and that Sorrell told him he was a member of the party and defended party principles.

Robinson, in recounting a conversation with Sorrell explained that he

(*Continued on page* 4)

RKO to Release 12 Films by Labor Day

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—RKO Radio will release 12 productions between now and Labor Day, it was announced here following sales and product meetings at the studio between Ned E. Depinet, Robert Mochrie and Dore Schary as well as independent producers.

The 12 films are: "I Remember Mama," "Fort Apache," "Berlin Express," "Tarzan and the Mermaids," "Bring 'Em Back Alive" (reissue), "Fighting Father Dunne," "The Best Years of Our Lives," "Your Red Wagon," "Melody Time," "The Velvet Touch," "Good Sam."

90 Millions In Dividends

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Final figures released by the Commerce Department on film companies' 1947 dividend payments indicate that they actually topped $90,000,000, rather than the earlier record $80,000,000 revealed by preliminary reports.

The Department said that its revised, final figures show that film companies last year paid out $54,600,000 in publicly-reported dividends, and since Commerce holds that publicly-reported dividends constitute

(*Continued on page* 5)

Universal Officers Are All Reelected

J. Cheever Cowdin, Universal board chairman; Nate Blumberg, president, and all other officers of the company were re-elected at a meeting of the board of directors held here yesterday.

Other officers are: vice-presidents John J. O'Connor, Charles Prutzman, William A. Scully, Joseph H. Seidelman, Matthew Fox and Edward Muhl; secretary, Adolph Schimel; treasurer, Manuel Machnovitch; assistant secretaries Anthony Petti, Margaret M. Sullivan and Morris Davis; assistant treasurers Eugene F. Walsh, Harold Brewster, Miss Sullivan and George Douglas. A new assistant secretary, Percy Guth, was elected by the board.

Universal's top officers are serving without contracts, pending adjustment of industry conditions. Their old contracts expired last January 1.

Stage Show Houses Plan Ascap Appeal

Operators of combination film and stage show houses, including Paramount, RKO, Warner, Loew, National Theatres and others, will make a concerted effort to negotiate with Ascap for a reduction of the latter's new increased music licensing rates for theatres having regular stage show policies, a spokesman for one of the circuits said here yesterday. He added, however, that Ascap will be approached by the companies only after Ascap's new contracts are received.

The contracts, calling for as much as 500 per cent increase in rates, are now being printed and are expected to be sent to the theatres within two weeks. They are intended to be retroactive to March 15.

Cinema Lodge Will Honor Weitman

Robert M. Weitman, retiring president of New York's Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith, will be feted at the lodge's "Presidents' Dinner" at New York's Hotel Astor, on April 14, it was announced here yesterday by David Weinstock, honorary chairman, and Jack H. Levin, dinner chairman. The new president, yet to be selected, will be inducted at the dinner.

Also on the committee are Harry Levine and Robert K. Shapiro, Paramount Theatre; Marvin Kirsch, *Radio Daily;* Albert A. Senft, Sterling Sign; attorneys S. Arthur Glixon and Malvin T. Davidson, and Milton Livingston, Universal.

N. Y. 1st-Runs Are Spotty

Business at Broadway first-runs this week is characterized by extremes: some are producing first-rate grosses, others are getting only meagre returns. Still outstanding among top-money films is "The Naked City" which, together with Tex Beneke's orchestra on stage, is heading for a record-smashing $130,000 in its second week at the Capitol. First week of "City" brought $147,000.

At Radio City Music Hall, "I Remember Mama," plus an Easter

(*Continued on page* 5)

N. Y. Circuits at Video Parley Today

Representatives of Century Circuit, Walter Reade, Cinema, Rugoff and Becker, Warner, Loew's, RKO, Paramount and other circuits are expected today to participate in what is described as the first move to test the legal obstacles said to be blocking the immediate advent of theatre television. They will discuss the problem with Alfred Emerson, president of Colonial Television, and Joseph Marker, video attorney, in the offices of attorney Joseph L. Greenberg here.

Meanwhile, the first group of Altec engineers has checked in with Colonial for a week's training in large-screen television. The entire project calls for 40 Altec men from all over

(*Continued on page* 5)

Claim Canada Net of British Films Included

Decision May Hinge on 'Dollar Area' Meaning

Contention that the equivalent of British film earnings in Canada also may be remitted to the American industry from its British revenue under the tax settlement agreement is likely to be made by some distribution companies here, it was learned yesterday.

Basis of the contention is the section of the London agreement which provides that among the uses to which sterling blocked in England may be put is the "payment of British producers for dollar earnings from distribution of British films in the dollar area."

While the agreement itself does not, apparently, define the "dollar area," distribution officials here contend that under established film distributing practice for foreign-made films, the "dollar area" is recognized as including Canada, Central and South America, as well as the United States.

The distributors of foreign films in the Western Hemisphere, it was

(*Continued on page* 4)

Johnston on UK Tax on NBC Sat.

The story of the settlement of the British *ad valorem* film import tax will be aired Saturday from 5:30 to 5:45 P.M. (EST), by Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, on a nationwide hookup over NBC, emanating from Washington.

Johnston is due in New York on Thursday at about 11 A.M. aboard the *S.S. Queen Mary.* A meeting of the MPAA board and industry execu-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Rank, Reels Discuss Olympics Coverage

The controversy between the American newsreels and J. Arthur Rank over rights to cover the Olympic Games in England this summer was on the way to a solution yesterday as a result of a meeting here between a newsreel committee and the British film leader.

The meeting was called at the re-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Personal Mention

HAL B. WALLIS, Paramount producer, will leave New York Friday for the Coast.

•

NATE BLUMBERG, Universal president, is due here tomorrow, instead of Saturday, from Europe on the *SS America*. ROBERT H. RANKIN, director of Thompson Productions, London, is also among the passengers.

•

JEAN LIGHTMAN, daughter of M. A. LIGHTMAN, SR., of Malco Theatres, Memphis, has been selected as the Better Films Council "lady-in-waiting" for the 1948 Cotton Carnival.

•

MAURICE BERGMAN, Universal-International Eastern advertising-publicity director, will attend the Variety Club convention at Miami Beach April 12-17.

•

E. T. GOMERSALL, Universal-International distribution executive, and C. J. FELDMAN, Western division sales manager, left here yesterday for Detroit.

•

GEORGE HIRLIMAN, president of Film-Tel and International Theatrical and Television Corp., has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

TOM BRIDGE has become acting manager of Paramount's Memphis office during the leave of absence of L. W. MCCLINTOCK.

•

DAVID D. HORNE, Monogram International assistant secretary-treasurer, has returned to New York from Puerto Rico.

•

HOWARD STRICKLAND, M-G-M studio publicity chief, left Hollywood yesterday by plane for home office conferences.

•

JACK COHN, Columbia executive vice-president, has returned to New York from Florida.

•

HERMAN GREENBERG, Ascap sales manager, is due back in town tomorrow from Boston.

•

DON SWARTZ, head of Independent Film Distributors, has returned to Minneapolis from New York.

•

HARRY FEINSTEIN, Warner film buyer in Pittsburgh, is a New York visitor.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, has returned here from the Coast.

Ascap Wants BMI Included in Suit

In an amended answer to the Government's anti-trust suit against it, Ascap has asked that Broadcast Music, Inc., be made a defendant in the action on the grounds that it sought to "destroy all associations of composers and authors and to make the composers and authors of the world subservient" to the radio industry.

News Briefs . . .

George Gold Named to Lead N. J. Allied Anti-Tax Drive

NEWARK, March 16.—George Gold has been named by Edward Lachman, president of New Jersey Allied, to head a committee to formulate a program of attack against the threatened imposition of three per cent theatre admission taxes by the city councils of Newark and Ocean City.

Gold's appointment was made following a Jersey Allied membership meeting today at the Newark Athletic Club. The meeting also mapped plans to combat passage of state legislation which would permit the return of bingo at charity affairs.

National Film Board Cost Canada $1,012,646 in 1947

OTTAWA, March 16.—Film distribution costs of the National Film Board of Canada last year totaled $1,012,646; $816,786, more than four-fifths of this, was spent in Canada. The remainder paid for distribution services abroad, including the maintenance of offices in London, Washington, Chicago, New York, Mexico City and Sydney.

It booked 30 board pictures and scores of newsreels into 325 Canadian theatres, with an estimated monthly audience of 2,000,000 during the year.

20 More for Realart Are Announced at Meeting Here

Realart franchise holders Don Swartz, Minneapolis; Lee Goldberg, Cincinnati; Joe Levine, Boston, and Nelson Wax, Philadelphia, are in New York for a series of sales and advertising meetings. Twelve additional features and eight Westerns have been announced for 1948-49.

Delay DeLuxe Case Hearing

CHICAGO, March 16.—Hearing on the brief filed by the DeLuxe Theatre in its anti-trust suit against Paramount and B. & K. has been extended until April 14. Plaintiff's brief opposes the defendants' motion to strike out certain paragraphs relating to the Jackson Park decree.

Griffith Managers Meet March 30-31

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 16.—Executives and managers of Griffith Theatres in Oklahoma and Texas will meet here March 30-31, C. F. Motley, Griffith home office spokesman, said here.

Col. to Pay 2½% Dividend

A two-and-a-half per cent common stock dividend payable May 14 to shareholders of record on April 30 was declared yesterday by the Columbia board.

25-Cent Universal Dividend

Board of directors of Universal yesterday declared a quarterly dividend of 25 cents per share on the common stock, payable April 30 to stockholders of record on April 15.

AAA Appeal Board Modifies Elwood Amusement Award

Arbitrator's award in the clearance dispute brought by Elmwood Amusement, operating the Jamestown Theatre, Jamestown, R. I., has been modified by the Appeal Board of the Motion Picture Arbitration Tribunals.

Proceedings against the Paramount and Opera House theatres, at Newport, and against Loew's, 20th Century-Fox and Warners, were dismissed by the board which set maximum clearance to be granted by Paramount and RKO Radio to the Strand, Newport, over the Jamestown, at seven days, but not later than 60 days after territorial release.

Gomez, Liebeskind Take Over For Foreign Screen in Mexico

Max Gomez and Nat Liebeskind start distributing Foreign Screen Corp. product in Mexico this week, having acquired the FSC franchise for that country, reports H. Alban-Mestanza, company president. Their first release is the anti-Communist "The Agitator," opening in Mexico City's El Prado Theatre. A private screening has been requested by President Aleman.

Display Miniature Theatre In Model Glass Caravan

A miniature theatre exterior is included in the mobile caravan of 12 model retail establishments which the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. has placed on display here at the Hotel Commodore. The models, following the showing here, will move to Philadelphia on the first leg of a tour of 540 cities and towns during the next three years.

Heineman Sets 16 E-L Films For Shipment to England

William J. Heineman, Eagle-Lion distribution vice-president, yesterday announced plans for shipping to England 16 films from E-L's 1947-48 release list as soon as the British government's 75 per cent tax on foreign films is lifted.

Wayne Heads Cleveland Salesmen

CLEVELAND, March 16. — Aaron Wayne, Paramount, was elected president of the Salesmen's Club of Cleveland, succeeding Oscar Kantor. Elected with Wayne were: Frank Belles, RKO Radio, first vice-president; Alex Schimel, Universal-International, second vice-president; Justin Spiegel, Eagle-Lion, secretary; and Nat Barach, National Screen Service manager, treasurer.

NYU Cites 'Expectations'

Motion Picture Club of New York University has voted J. Arthur Rank's "Great Expectations" as the outstanding screen production of 1947; the best adaptation of a novel, and the film having the best black and white photography.

Newsreel Parade

REPEAL of the British ad valorem tax is a highlight in current newsreels. Other items cover the mounting world crisis, people in the news, and assorted sports. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 22—Secretary Marshall urges calmness in crisis. Ex-Secretary Byrnes says U. S. must firm. Five European nations sign defer price ct. Pope rallies Catholics against Comm...sm. Miners strike for pension. General Meyers jailed. U. S. and England sign film pact. Spyros Skouras and J. Arthur Rank get degrees. Brooklyn Dodgers practice. Bowling tournament. Water skiing.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 257—World crisis mounts. Secretary Marshall asks U. S. to keep calm. General Meyers goes to jail. De Valera hailed here. Romance of the air. Britain-U. S. sign film agreement. Dodgers get ready. Bowling championship meet.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 59—Eighty-day pin derby. Spring football. British repeal 75 per cent tax on U. S. films. People in the eyes of the world: Dick Button, Jane Frohman, General Meyers. Ex-Secretary Byrnes asks action on Russia. Baseball life with the Dodgers.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 236—Ex-Secretary Byrnes warns of Red menace. Reciprocal film agreement signed in London. J. Arthur Rank receives honorary degree from Boston University. Dodgers train. Wheel-chair basketball. Water-skiers.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 61—International Court's first case. Jane Frohman weds air hero. Dick Button returns. Singing sextet in comeback after 50 years. Thousands in bowling tourney. Secretary Marshall urges calmness. Wheelchair basketball.

Para. Heads in New Product Conference

Paramount executives and advertising-publicity personnel discussed forthcoming product at a meeting in the Hotel Astor here yesterday. Pictures discussed were "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes," "My Own True Love," "Sealed Verdict," "The Long Grey Line," "A Foreign Affair" and "Whispering Smith."

Speakers included Rex Taylor, Rudy Montgelas, Paul Ackerman, Russell Holman, Stanley Shuford and Sid Mesibov. Among others of the 55 who attended were: Ted O'Shea, Hugh Owen, Robert O'Brien, Robert Weitman, Ed Hyman, Leon Netter, Fred Mohrhardt, members of the foreign publicity department and six representatives of Buchanan and Co., advertising agency serving Paramount.

NT Head Addresses Fox Midwest Meet

KANSAS CITY, March 16.—Charles P. Skouras, president of National Theatres, today conducted a meeting of Fox Midwest division executives and managers at the Hotel Muehlebach here, preliminary to the sixth annual "Charles Skouras" drive of the National Theatres division. Elmer Rhoden, head of Fox Midwest, assisted. The Skouras party, which includes five NT executives who also addressed the meeting, are due next in Milwaukee for a similar parley there.

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Leo Goes Out On a Limb!

"I PREDICT THAT THESE THREE PICTURES WILL BE CANDIDATES FOR THE 'TEN BEST' OF 1948!"

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LEWIS STONE

in

FRANK CAPRA'S

"STATE OF THE UNION"

Based on the Play by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse
Screen Play by Anthony Veiller and Myles Connolly
Associate Producer Anthony Veiller
Produced and Directed by FRANK CAPRA
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

M-G-M presents

CLARK GABLE · LANA TURNER
ANNE BAXTER · JOHN HODIAK

in

"HOMECOMING"

RAY COLLINS · GLADYS COOPER · CAMERON MITCHELL
A MERVYN LeROY PRODUCTION
Original Story by Sidney Kingsley · Adaptation by Jan Lustig
Screen Play by Paul Osborn
Directed by MERVYN LeROY
Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

M-G-M presents

IRVING BERLIN'S

"EASTER PARADE"

Starring

JUDY GARLAND · FRED ASTAIRE
PETER LAWFORD
ANN MILLER

Color by TECHNICOLOR
Lyrics and Music by IRVING BERLIN
Musical Numbers Directed by ROBERT ALTON
Directed by CHARLES WALTERS
Produced by ARTHUR FREED
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Remember what we say here! And remember that it is still early in the year and there are many other M-G-M Big Ones to come! That's why there's a new industry slogan:

"M·G·M GREAT IN '48"

Court Hits Lawyer in Liberty Trust Case

CHICAGO, March 16.—"Everything I have heard is silly," said Judge Barnes in U. S. District Court here today, as he broke into Paramount attorney Sam Block's testimony during arguments in the Liberty Theatre case against the Manta Rose Circuit and major companies.

"If counsel wants to come in and argue in order to earn fees," the judge added, "I will listen, but I just want you to know how I feel."

The case was moved over until next Monday, when Seymour Simon, plaintiff's counsel, will present arguments. A decision on the case is expected at that time.

Leo Forbstein, 56, Warner Music Head

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—Leo F. Forbstein, 56, head of the Warner music department for the past 20 years, died today in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital from a heart attack suffered last weekend. He was stricken while at work on the musical program for the Academy Award dinner.

The widow and a daughter, Mrs. Mel Dollars, survive. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Court Approves 'Furia'

"Furia," Italian-language picture which recently was ordered withdrawn from San Francisco screens by city authorities, "has been given a clean bill of health by the City Circuit Court," it was announced here yesterday by B. G. Kranze, distribution vice-president for Film Classics, which is distributing the picture. The film was immediately booked into the Larkin Theatre, in that city.

Sorrell 'Red' Tie

(*Continued from page* 1)

was ousted from the National Maritime Union by the Communists because he had opposed them.

Testifying as the House hearings swung into their fifth week, Robinson also said he thought the party membership book receipt in evidence here was one he had seen in Sorrell's possession.

Zorn Hits 'Strike Violence'

Earlier today, producers' attorney Burton Zorn had attempted to refute testimony given by Sorrell that the picketing of the studios had been entirely "peaceful." Zorn cited affidavits from workers and executives who had been unable to cross the picket lines and charged that the 1945 strikes were conducted "with some of the worst violence in labor history and a complete contempt for the law." He also promised to furnish affidavits disproving Sorrell's charge that the producers had "bought" the police at the time of the strike.

IATSE attorney Matthew Levy read from the records of the House Un-American Activities Committee and the California committee, as well as from other documents, to further establish Sorrell's "Communist affiliations."

Brewer Denies Bioff 'Link'

Roy Brewer, IATSE representative on the Coast, took the stand briefly to declare that he had never met Willie Bioff and George Browne and that Sorrell's charges that he was "following the same line" as they had were completely false. He told the committee that if he could find any evidence of Bioff influence in Hollywood he would "either eliminate it or resign."

DeMille Takes AFRA Suit to High Court

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Cecil B. DeMille today asked the U. S. Supreme Court to reverse the lower court decision upholding the American Federation of Radio Artists' right to expel him for failure to pay a one-dollar union assessment.

AFRA's right to levy the assessment, which was imposed in 1944 to combat a proposed California anti-labor law, is not being challenged by DeMille in his appeal.

Olympics Coverage

(*Continued from page* 1)

quest of the newsreels, which had been given to understand that Rank had acquired sole rights to newsreel coverage of the games and that they would have to buy from him any Olympic footage desired. Rank conceded upon his arrival from England last week that he had been granted exclusive authority by the British Olympics Committee to film the games, but said he did not know the details of the deal since it had been signed in London while he was on his way here.

Issue Joint Statement

At the end of the meeting, Rank and the newsreel committee disclosed in a joint statement that ideas on the proper method of coverage had been exchanged by them. Rank reiterated at the conference that he was not familiar with details of the deal in England but told the newsreel representatives he was interested in getting their views on the subject.

The newsreel committee said it felt that any points at issue would be readily ironed out.

Rank Aide Leaving Saturday

It was announced that G. I. Woodham-Smith, general counsel for the Rank interests, will take along, when he sails for home Saturday on the *S.S. Queen Mary*, the several points raised by the American newsreelers so they can be discussed with the British Newsreel Association.

Committee representing the American newsreels at the conference consisted of A. J. Richard and Theodore Genock, Paramount; Jack Haney, 20th-Fox Movietone; Michael Clofine, News of the Day; Harold Butterfield, Warner Pathe; Thomas Mead, Universal. Richard was chairman.

Johnston on Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

tives is scheduled for that day, or the following if the ship is delayed.

Newsreel and press photographers and a large newspaper contingent are expected to meet Johnston and his party, including the SIMPP's James Mulvey, when the ship arrives. MPAA publicity chief Ken Clark will arrive here today from Washington to handle arrangements. A full-scale press conference will follow the board meeting Thursday afternoon, according to the MPAA.

Mulvey Will Report to SIMPP At a Dinner for Him on Tuesday

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—James Mulvey, president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions, who represented the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers at the recent British tax settlement talks in London, will make a complete report of the tax agreement to the SIMPP at a dinner to be held in his honor next Tuesday at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Claim Canada

(*Continued from page* 1)

pointed out, have the rentals from such films throughout the dollar area sent to New York for conversion and transmission of the foreign producers' shares. Therefore, the claim is made, the "dollar area" as used in the agreement includes Canada, Central and South America, as well as U. S.

However, some distributors concede the point is arguable because "dollar area" does not appear to be specifically defined in the agreement.

Several suggestions for methods of allocating shares of British remittances among American companies and producers already are shaping up and undoubtedly several will be presented to the general industry meeting on the tax settlement which will follow the arrival here tomorrow of Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association president, and James Mulvey, representative of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, who together headed the American negotiators in London.

One proposal heard yesterday was that a commission, which could be comprised of either honorary or paid members, be set up to receive the claims for shares of remittances, examine, verify and decide them.

Claims are likely to be numerous, it was pointed out, since the agreement covers the entire American industry and is not limited simply to distribution companies.

Deny Nationalization Of Mexican Industry

MEXICO CITY, March 16.—Government circles have disavowed reports that the Mexican industry will be nationalized. These reports have been widespread following the announcement that Clasa Films Mundials, producing company here, has been placed under supervision of the National Properties Ministry, the bureau set up by President Miguel Aleman to check government expenditures. Government circles explain that supervision of Clasa Films by the Ministry is merely an official auditing.





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New York Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

stage presentation, got off to a good start with a big $138,000 seen for a first week on the basis of a gross of $84,000 for the first four days. Performing equally well in its first week is "Sitting Pretty" at the Roxy where, together with Art Mooney's band on stage, the film is heading toward $107,000, following the first five days' gross of $87,000. Long lines were in evidence yesterday at the Hall, the Roxy and the Rivoli where "The Miracle of the Bells" started a run. Fifth and final week of "To the Ends of the Earth" was a very mild one at the Rivoli, on a $22,000 gross.

'Road to Rio' Strong

"Road to Rio," with a stage show featuring Louis Prima's band, is still going strong at the Paramount where a fourth week looks like $70,000. At the Warner, the reissued "Robin Hood" is very gratifying in its first week, grossing $29,000. Another reissue, "The Fighting 69th," paired with Russ Morgan's orchestra on stage, is due to bring the Strand a rousing $50,000 in its first week. "Furia" is still good at the Rialto, with a $7,000 gross in an eighth week. At the Sutton, "The Pearl" continues to fare well; fourth week brought $8,100.

"Relentless" is very disappointing in its second week at the Criterion where only $16,000 is expected; "All My Sons" will have its world premiere at that house on March 27. At the Palace, "If You Knew Susie" is performing poorly in its fourth week, on an expected $13,000 gross. Also grossing in a mediocre vein is "The Mating of Millie" at Loew's State where the first week is heading for $20,000. Mild, too, is "Black Bart," which is expected to bring the Winter Garden only $18,000 in a second week. "Song of My Heart" failed to rally after a mild first week ($6,500) at the Park Avenue where a weak $5,500 was seen for a second; picture will hold for a third, however.

$23,500 for 'Bishop's Wife'

Broadway's three long runs measure up as follows: "The Bishop's Wife," Astor, 14th week, $23,500; "Gentleman's Agreement," Mayfair, 18th week, $22,000; "Body and Soul," Globe, 19th and final week, $14,000. "The Adventures of Casanova" will bow in at the Globe on Saturday. Third week of "Alburquerque" is due to bring the Victoria a so-so $12,000. "The Search" is scheduled to open there on March 24.

$600,000 Claimed for 19-Week N. Y. Run of 'Body and Soul'

"Body and Soul," United Artists, will wind up its run at the Globe Theatre here on Friday night. The Enterprise production will have played 19 weeks on Broadway, grossing more than $600,000, according to UA. It will end its engagement because of the theatre's commitment to show "Adventures of Casanova."

IRE Press Luncheon

The Institute of Radio Engineers will "kick off" its 1948 convention on "Radio-Electronic Frontiers" on March 22 with a press luncheon at the Hotel Roosevelt here. George W. Bailey, IRE executtve secretary, will preside.

Review

"Are You With It?"

(*Universal-International*)

MIRTH is the main preoccupation of "Are You With It," many varieties of it. Along with the comedy, the producers offer light and relaxing entertainment in a succession of songs, dances and production numbers. The plot is a lightweight affair that skips nimbly from an insurance office to carnival life, with a cast headed by Donald O'Connor and Lew Parker and including Olga San Juan and Martha Stewart.

O'Connor offers a one-man variety show as a model insurance executive whose cosmos collapses when he makes a mistake with a decimal point and is then lured into the escape of carnival life by trouper Parker. This new world of two-headed men and bewhiskered women also develops complications for O'Connor when he becomes a mysterious knife-thrower's target. It develops that in back of all the skullduggery is a plot to get the carnival away from its hard-pressed owner. A little calculating by O'Connor reveals that the would-be carnival owner has had a shady past and thus the day is saved.

Even when Parker does nothing he is funny, but fortunately he has a lot to do. Miss San Juan, as O'Connor's fiancee and secretary, who follows him into carnival life, is a pleasant and spirited little lass. The songs and merriment have a standard plot groundwork in the screenplay of Oscar Brodney, based on the musical comedy written by Sam Perrin and George Balzer. Robert Arthur produced and Jack Hively directed.

Running time, 90 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Music Hall Books 'State of Union'

M-G-M's "State of the Union" has been booked as the next attraction at Radio City Music Hall, following the run of "I Remember Mama," which is expected to continue at the Hall for the next five or six weeks. "Mama" will have the benefit of the Easter holiday weekend and the ensuing week of school vacation.

"State of the Union" was booked by Gus Eyssell, Music Hall president and managing director, after viewing the picture in rough print form in Hollywood last week.

Music Hall Party

Gus Eyssell, president and managing director of Radio City Music Hall, was host at a cocktail party in the theatre's studio apartment yesterday for George Stevens and Harriet Parsons, whose "I Remember Mama" is current at the Music Hall.

90 Millions

(*Continued from page* 1)

only about three-fifths of all dividend payments, the total for the industry was boosted to $90,000,000.

The Department's preliminary figures had shown $50,700,000 in publicly-reported dividends payments. The final 1946 figure was $46,700,000.

Department officials said that if payments during the final quarter of 1947 had matched those in the 1946 final quarter, the yearly total would have been even higher. Payments for the final quarter of 1947 amounted to $12,800,000, compared with $15,300,000 for the similar 1946 period.

Get Realart in St. Louis

Realart Pictures' franchise in St. Louis has been acquired by Herman Gorelick and George Phillips. Regular release schedule has been set up and they are now prepared to service the territory, according to Budd Rogers, Realart executive.

Dirksen Proposes a Government Studio

Washington, March 16.—A suggestion was made today by Rep. Everett M. Dirksen, (R. Ill.), that the U. S. Government "develop a modern film studio" to produce informational subjects for the various Federal departments.

He "wondered whether it might not be wise" for the Government to set up its own studio, allowing the various departments to use the facilities as they wished and financing production by funds from each agency.

SAG Asks Pay for Televised Pictures

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—Screen Actors Guild, in a notice to all producers, has served notice that it takes the position no producer has the legal right to sell or use for television any films made for theatre use without additional payments to actors in them.

The notice says in part that SPG "takes the position that films made for theatre exhibitors may not be used for television without compensation to actors to be agreed upon between us as part of the collective bargaining agreement."

Video Parley Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

the country to acquaint themselves with the manufacture of theatre video equipment, servicing and installation.

Today's meeting will be addressed on legal aspects by Marker. An attempt will be made to resolve "whether theatre owners are willing to force the video issue." Broadcasters have declined to permit theatres to pick up telecasts. Exhibitors are said to be anxious to establish their video "rights" before the June political conventions in Philadelphia.



"ALL MY SONS"

is for all kinds of people

"ALL MY SONS" appeals to all kinds of people. We think this proves it is a great motion picture.

U-I has made a point of screening "ALL MY SONS" for all kinds of people in all walks of life. We feel that the picture has a powerful basic theme, which appeals to audiences of all types.

Not only have the show-wise trade paper reviewers acclaimed "ALL MY SONS" as an excellent picture, but it has been received with equal enthusiasm by such a varied group as:

SAMMY KAYE	LOU LITTLE
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ARTHUR MURRAY	JOHN KIERAN
PERCY FAITH	GUY LOMBARDO
EDDIE BRANNICK	JOE DI MAGGIO

They all said: "'ALL MY SONS' is great!"

Everyone who sees "ALL MY SONS" agrees that it is a great motion picture.

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL presents

EDWARD G. ROBINSON · BURT LANCASTER

in "ALL MY SONS"

with MADY CHRISTIANS · HOWARD DUFF · LOUISA HORTON
FRANK CONROY · ARLENE FRANCIS · LLOYD GOUGH

A CHESTER ERSKINE PRODUCTION

Written and Produced for the Screen by CHESTER ERSKINE
From the Play by ARTHUR MILLER · Directed by IRVING REIS

Universal International

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Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 53 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1948 TEN CENTS

SIMPP Lines Up Against Lewis Bill

Seeks Mills as Witness; Adds to Opposition

Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers has signified its intention of opposing the Lewis bill at hearings which are scheduled to start before the House committee on copyright in Washington next Monday, thus heavily tipping the industry stand against the pressure which would require producers, instead of exhibitors, to clear performing rights to music used in films.

SIMPP sought E. C. Mills, a director of United Artists and former general manager of Ascap, to represent it at the Washington hearings in opposition to the Lewis bill. Mills was unable to accept the assignment due to previous commitments and, if SIMPP cannot obtain other representation, it is believed that it will file a brief in opposition.

Briefs also will be filed by the Mo-

(Continued on page 6)

TOA Drive Against 'Hidden' Tax Laws

Warnings against city charter "loop-holes" and "hidden" laws which would permit imposition of admission taxes without warning, are currently being sent by Theatre Owners of America to member theatres across the country, Ted R. Gamble, TOA president, discloses.

TOA's action was inspired by a surprise move by the city council of Eugene, Ore., which recently levied a three per cent admission tax originally proposed many years ago.

TOA is now urging members to familiarize themselves with the full contents of city charters, and to report at once any clauses which could bring about "surprise" admission taxes. The organization intends to take immediate nullifying action against such clauses as they are reported, Gamble said.

15 Will Set 'Youth Drive' Here Monday

Some 15 theatremen from various sections of the country will meet at Theatre Owners of America headquarters here on Monday to formulate exhibition's national campaign to combat juvenile delinquency along lines

(Continued on page 6)

'IA' Convenes On Aug. 16

More than 1,000 IATSE delegates from all over the country will convene in Cleveland on Aug. 16 for the "IA's" week-long bi-annual convention. "IA" international president Richard F. Walsh will preside.

Convention's principal order of business will be the election of officers for the next two-year term. Walsh, who has served as international president since 1941, will be up for re-election again. Although it has been customary for more than one candidate to be available, there has been no official announcement of other presidential candidates so far. Nine "IA" vice-presidents and a secretary-treasurer also will be elected.

Other convention business is expected to include the Hollywood ju-

(Continued on page 7)

Labor Hearing in Recess to May 17

WASHINGTON, March 17.—After almost five weeks of hearings here on the Hollywood jurisdictional tangle, the Kearns House Labor sub-committee went into temporary recess today.

The committee will open shop again on May 17, according to present plans. At that time, it will hear from Jack B. Tenney, chairman of the California Senate Committee on Un-American Activities; Hearst columnist Westbrook Pegler, and anyone else who

(Continued on page 7)

President's Message Seen Dooming Hope Of Ticket Tax Cut

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The fight for reduction of theatre admission taxes during the present session of Congress was believed to have become a lost cause today as a result of President Truman's message to a joint session of Senate and House today calling for the rebuilding of the nation's armed power because of the menace to world peace posed by Soviet Russia's present course of action in Europe. It was felt that expenditures for a preparedness program would force elimination of a possible admission tax cut from any tax reduction program.

Despite the President's message, it is understood that Congressional leaders will go ahead with their plans to pass the Senate version of an income tax reduction bill.

Video Pick-Up Right Sought for Theatres

At a meeting of circuit executives called here yesterday by Colonial Television to discuss legal obstacles blocking theatre television, Colonial announced that it is prepared to bring legal action against telecasters to remove from theatre owners the threat of litigation for running television shows.

A recent effort by Colonial to demonstrate its large-screen projector at an RKO theatre here was called off

(Continued on page 7)

Critics of Tax Settlement Rise in House of Commons

LONDON, March 17.—House of Commons critics of the British *ad valorem* tax settlement plan to assail the Anglo-American film agreement when the order revoking the tax is introduced in Parliament, probably on April 6.

The critical bloc's first formal opposition move will be made tomorrow when it will ask Commons how Chancellor of the Exchequer Stafford Cripps reconciles the settlement details with the bleak economic survey he had issued previously.

However, the British press generally has accepted the settlement favorably. Typical of approval comments was the following editorial observation made by the *London Times*: "Maximum output is not to be achieved in conditions of maximum austerity. Films, like smoking, are in the practical world of today necessary amenities without which workers don't give their best."

Brendan Bracken's *Financial Times*, however, returned to its attack on motion pictures generally and, in connection with the settlement, made snide comments on "innocent economist Socialist president of the Board of Trade" (Harold Wilson).

Exhibitor opinion was voiced in a tribute to the settlement in a paid *London Herald* advertisement. Among sponsors of the ad were Cinematograph Exhibitor's Association leaders and other representatives of exhibition in Britain.

CEA released to newspapers the report made by its secretary, W. R.

(Continued on page 6)

SRO Indicated For Johnston, Mulvey Today

All Concerned (and Who Isn't?) Have Questions

An overflow crowd from all branches of the industry will be on hand today to hear Eric Johnston's detailed report on the British film tax settlement agreement of last week and to let loose a barrage of questions which agreement provisions have raised and many of which, industry executives predict, negotiators of the agreement will be unable to answer.

Covering, as the British agreement does, the entire industry, and not simply members of the Motion Picture Association, today's meeting is not limited to MPAA board members. So inclusive is the agreement, so wide the interest in it and so many the questions which remain unanswered concerning it, that there appeared no possibility yesterday of accommodating the crowd which will be on hand to

(Continued on page 6)

Tax Settlement Seen Aid in Latin America

MEXICO CITY, March 17.—Abolition of the British 75 per cent *ad valorem* tax on U. S. films is regarded by American and other foreign distributors here as creating a most favorable outlook for them not only in Mexico but in all of Latin America.

The distributors had feared that the prohibitive British tax on pictures from the U. S. was bound sooner or later to encourage some Latin American countries to follow the lead of Argentina and heavily increase imposts on U. S. and other imported films. Mexico made a move in that direction late last fall when it decided to double the levy on film imports to $8.26 per kilogram. The U. S. Embassy here succeeded in inducing the Mexican government to limit the increase to $4.53 per kilogram.

500 Licenses Issued For Film Shipments

WASHINGTON, March 17.—More than 500 licenses have been issued to film companies for shipments to Europe through next June 30, according to Commerce Department motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden.

Golden said there are no plans in the works to broaden the areas for which

(Continued on page 6)

Personal Mention

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK, 20th Century-Fox production executive, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

F. E. HUTCHINSON, Paramount sales chief in Great Britain, and MIKE HAVAS, RKO Radio foreign sales executive, are among passengers due here today from Europe on the *SS America.*

•

JULES K. CHAPMAN, Film Classics assistant general sales manager, is in Buffalo from New York, pinch-hitting for branch manager JOE MILLER, who is ill with pneumonia.

•

ELIZABETH WERLICK of Century Projector Corp., here, and GEORGE BOWMAN of Western Electric's New York office, will be married April 18 at Queens Village, L. I.

•

LOU FORMATO, M-G-M manager in Philadelphia, and HARRY ROSENBLATT, New Haven manager, have returned to their respective offices from New York.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Warner International vice-president of distribution for the Far East and Latin America, has arrived in Manila.

•

JACK AUSLET, of the Auslet Co., New Orleans, has acquired a six-state franchise for a new quiz program for theatres.

•

HARRY K. MCWILLIAMS, Columbia exploitation manager, has left New York for Rochester, Toronto, Buffalo and Detroit.

•

P. J. WOOD, secretary of the Ohio Independent Theatre Owners, is in Florida from Columbus recuperating from a recent illness.

•

ROBERT W. COYNE, Theatre Owners of America executive director, will be in Washington today and will return to New York tomorrow.

•

TEODORA ALVARADO OLEA, Foreign Screen Corp. distributor in Ecuador, has been named Minister of the Interior of that country.

•

DON WALKER, Warner field exploiteer in Kansas City, and MRS. WALKER have become parents of a son, their fifth child.

•

PAUL MACNAMARA, director of advertising-publicity of Selznick Releasing Organization, arrived in New York from Hollywood last night.

•

WILLIAM ZIMMERMAN, RKO Radio sales executive, will leave New York Tuesday for Dallas.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner's Eastern sales manager, has returned to New York from Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

•

ARNO KERSKE, RKO Radio general manager in China, has arrived in New York for home office talks.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

UNDETERMINED so far is the method of dividing up the $17,000,000 in annual take-home money which Britain will allow the American industry under the tax settlement. Opinion at the moment leans toward the impression that the fair method is to compute the split-up on each American distributor's share of the British market based on 1946.

As an example, Universal would take out $2,380,000 since the company did 14 per cent of the total American distribution gross in England in that year.

■

Breakup of remittable funds accumulated through the earnings of British films in this country and possessions, and perhaps in Canada and Latin-America as well, are being discussed as a different sort of problem. Whatever money piles up under this provision is expected to be added to the $17,000,000 in a common pool.

But one of the many questions burdening the atmosphere in New York is whether or not a yardstick based on the share of the British market held by each American distributor necessarily need be—or ought to be, for that matter—in the yard-stick governing remittables accumulating from the earnings of British films in the areas designated.

■

As the principal seller of English films in the United States market, for example, Universal-International puts in the greatest effort and for it gets its 30 per cent distribution charge. However, it stands to reason U-I will earn more for British pictures than a company which is not releasing any, or perhaps only one or two.

Question: Should U-I benefit in proportion to its results? Or be content with its share of the common dollar pool based on its 14 per cent of the English market when competitive distributors enjoy a higher percentage there yet do little or nothing on behalf of British films here?

This is offered as typical of the many and assorted questions for which answers must be found. In fact, now that the terms of the basic agreement have been fairly well digested, the problem is one of defining what they mean, or can mean. Developing the machinery of operation on a basis equitable to all will be a troublesome and extended task.

You're apt to hear some yells before quiet is restored.

■ ■

"The Naked City" is piling up some fancy firsts at the Capitol. They are amazing, too. The first week at $147,000 was an all-time high. Closest approach in the 28 years of this Broadway first run's history was "The Hucksters," at $114,000. Last night the second week closed at an indicated $120,000, or a bigger gross in a second week than the house has ever had in an opening week. Business is bad with the right show, is it?

These are facts, but here is a peek into futures:

If the picture remains 10 weeks, as anticipated, Universal will walk off with about $400,000 for its end and figures an additional $600,000 throughout the New York exchange district. Negative cost is $1,100,000, of which a million, therefore, might pile up in this one area alone. It is the largest revenue-producing exchange territory in the country, of course, but there are 30 others to go.

■

The possibility is not as remote, nor is it as over-enthusiastic as it sounds. There have been attractions which have rolled up from $500,000 to $800,000 and better in film rentals in the New York territory. Universal, itself, had one in "The Killers," at $500,000. Columbia's end on "The Jolson Story" is understood to have been $800,000. Twentieth Century-Fox did about $900,000 with "Leave Her to Heaven," and again with "The Razor's Edge."

A competitive distributor yesterday went so far as to volunteer:

"Positively, they'll reach $900,000. A million? Well; almost positively."

■ ■

Notice the newspaper billing on "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House"? It's:

AN RKO RADIO PRODUCTION
RELEASED BY THE SELZNICK
RELEASING ORGANIZATION

■ ■

Oscar A. Doob, back at his Loew desk bearing visible evidence of exposure to that warm Southern sun, has another explanation:

"I got that way changing marquee lights."

News Briefs

Philadelphia Luncheon for Lasky To Commemorate His 35 Years

PHILADELPHIA, March 17.—Mayor Bernard Samuels will preside at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in honor of producer Jesse L. Lasky on his 35 years in the industry, to be held at the Hotel Warwick here next Wednesday. In addition to other civic officials, the luncheon will be attended by Frank Sinatra, Ruth Warrick, Leo Carrillo, Rhonda Fleming, Charles Coburn and Russell Janney, author of "The Miracle of the Bells," RKO Radio's release of which will have its state-wide premiere here Wednesday evening.

Jack Goldstein Becomes Kane Partner in Agency Business

HOLLYWOOD, March 17.—Jack Goldstein has become an associate and partner in the Walter Kane Agency and he and Kane will form a new agency. They will be represented in London by Film Rights, Ltd., and will have a New York office.

Kane is a pioneer in the agency field in Hollywood. Goldstein is a veteran of 27 years in the industry and was formerly publicity manager for 20th Century-Fox, advertising-publicity director for David O. Selznick in the East and for two years was studio representative for RKO Radio in New York.

Examine Harry Warner Saturday On Coast in Sam Morris Suit

Harry M. Warner, Warner president, is scheduled to be examined on the Coast on Saturday in connection with the $250,000 breach-of-contract suit brought against the company in New York District Court by former Warner executive Sam E. Morris who claims the company did not have the right to discharge him last November.

Jack L. Warner, production vice-president, will be examined in connection with the case on July 17.

Hellinger's "Criss-Cross" and Lancaster's Contract to U-I

HOLLYWOOD, March 17.—Universal-International has acquired from the Mark Hellinger Estate, for an undisclosed sum, production rights to "Criss-Cross" and the contract of Bert Lancaster who will star in the picture, under a package deal. Film is slated to go into production early in May.

IATSE Wins Over Machinists In NLRB Vote at Disney

HOLLYWOOD, March 17.—The IATSE has been certified as collective bargaining agent for machinists employed at the Disney studio following a National Labor Relations Board election. The International Association of Machinists also sought certification in the election.

Butler in New Warner Deal

HOLLYWOOD, March 17.—David Butler has been signed to a new long-term directorial contract by Warner Brothers, it was anounced by executive producer Jack L. Warner.

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AIM HIGH WITH

THE ADVENTURES OF

"Robin Hood!"

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LONG OPENING LINES! LOBBY HOLDOUTS! THAT'S THE SENSATIONAL STORY FROM THE FIRST OPENINGS (NEW YORK, BRIDGEPORT, YOUNGSTOWN, UTICA). IT'S AS SOLID NOW AS WHEN IT WAS FIRST RELEASED BY WARNER BROS.!

THE SPLENDOR OF IT ALL IN COLOR BY **TECHNICOLOR**

STARRING

ERROL FLYNN · OLIVIA deHAVILLAND

with **BASIL RATHBONE · CLAUDE RAINS**

and **ALAN HALE · EUGENE PALLETTE**

directed by **MICHAEL CURTIZ** and **WILLIAM KEIGHLEY**

Original Screen Play by NORMAN REILLY RAINE and SETON I MILLER • Based Upon Ancient Robin Hood Legends
Music by ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD

HERE'S ONE FOR

When a picture in its second week breaks first week records, then, brother, you've got a picture!

That is what "NAKED CITY" did in its second week at the Capitol Theater on Broadway

THE BOOKS!

"NAKED CITY"

is the

BIG PICTURE

with the

BIG STAYING POWER

Mark Hellinger's

"NAKED CITY"

STARRING

BARRY FITZGERALD

and featuring

HOWARD DUFF · DOROTHY HART · DON TAYLOR

Directed by JULES DASSIN · Produced by MARK HELLINGER

Associate Producer, JULES BUCK

Screenplay by ALBERT MALTZ and MALVIN WALD • From a Story by MALVIN WALD

A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

Universal International

Ride high with U-I

Films Most Decent Of Arts: Ramsaye

"The motion picture is the most decent of the arts because it is responsible to the extremely public and professed standards of the greatest audience," Terry Ramsaye, editor of *Motion Picture Herald,* told members of the Contemporary Club of Philadelphia at a function there Monday night.

"Nearly everyone wants to appear respectable in company and among his fellows, so the more public the art the more conventional its standards. The reverse effect is denoted in the unsocial and secret vice of reading in which nice people are engaged in writing, printing and consuming books that would get you arrested if you read them out loud before an audience. The pictures are better behaved than the people."

The occasion was a debate on the issue "Do Public Entertainments Invade Morals." Guy Hicock, lecturer, formerly with National Broadcasting and UNRRA abroad, represented the case against the arts.

Abandon Edison Plant

The former Edison Studios plant in the Bronx will be placed on the market. For several years Soundies Films produced short subjects for the Mills Panoram Machines, plus Government and military pictures. Now that Mills Industries, Inc., have discontinued Panorams, Soundies has no reason for existence. Television interests are reportedly interested in acquiring the building.

Para. Buys 32,000 Shares of Common

Paramount maintained the increased tempo of its stock purchasing program last month, having acquired 32,000 additional shares of common on the open market, to bring its holdings to 476,233 shares. During January the company purchased 32,800 shares, and in December it bought 7,800 shares.

The stock-buying program was adopted by the company in November, 1946, to aid in the purchase of some theatre properties from partners.

'Youth Drive'

(*Continued from page* 1)

suggested by U. S. Attorney-General Tom Clark, it was reported here yesterday by TOA president Ted R. Gamble. Charles P. Skouras, president of National Theatres and campaign chairman, will preside.

Among matters which the group will discuss will be the nature of a trailer which theatres will exhibit in connection with the campaign, and which has been tentatively termed the "Youth Week" drive.

In addition to Skouras and Gamble, the meeting will be attended by M. J. Mullin and Harry Browning, Boston; Earle Hudson, Detroit; Walter Morris, Knoxville; Edward Levin, Chicago; Charles Winchell, Minneapolis; Richard Kennedy, Birmingham; Frank Starz, Dallas; Richard Beichele, Kansas City; Tom Friday, Scranton; George Kerasotes, Springfield, Ill.; S. H. Fabian, New York, and TOA executive director Robert W. Coyne. Skouras arrived here from the Coast last night.

SIMPP

(*Continued from page* 1)

tion Picture Association of America in opposition and probably by individual companies, MPAA will have witnesses at the hearings.

Theatre Owners of America also will have witnesses in opposition to the Lewis bill at the hearings. Ascap itself will be represented and, although it has favored such an arrangement as the bill provides, it is reported that the society will not support the measure now.

Allied, PCCITO Back Measure

Industry proponents of the measure appear to be limited to Allied States, which sponsored it, and the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners. Proponents of the measure will be heard on Monday and the opposition will follow.

Exhibitor opponents of the Lewis bill contend that under it producers themselves would be required to set up their own copyright clearance bureau and that, in addition to paying the Ascap fees, exhibitors would be charged for the new bureau also. Performing rights to foreign music would have to be cleared separately, it is pointed out, involving a further costly expense item to be passed on to exhibitors.

See Ascap Freed of 10-Year Pact

It is also contended that in dealing with producers under the Lewis bill, Ascap would be freed of its current 10-year rate agreement with exhibitors and could immediately adopt a new performance licensing formula on another basis than the per-seat formula used heretofore. A different formula, such as one based on film footage, it is argued, could boost the cost of music tremendously and exhibitors would be billed for it on a cost-plus basis.

Parliament Critics

(*Continued from page* 1)

Fuller, on his return from his American trip last year and which discloses that the plan which he proposed then to Motion Picture Association of America president Eric A. Johnston was similar basically to the agreement now adopted. It was also pointed out that prior to Fuller's departure for the U. S., Hugh Dalton, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, had hinted if the British loan was immediately unfrozen the way would be open for a tax settlement.

Although fully prepared to put an unprecedented releasing schedule into operation, American offices here are awaiting decisions which are expected to be made at the MPAA board meeting in New York, slated for tomorrow.

500 Licenses

(*Continued from page* 1)

licenses must be obtained. He stated that his office has no backlog of licenses pending, that "we are moving them right along, there have been no compaints, and the industry is not being hurt in any way, shape or form" because of the license requirement.

NBC Promotes Ladner

Henry Ladner, assistant general counsel of National Broadcasting, has been promoted to the position of assistant to John H. MacDonald, administrative vice-president, by Frank E. Mullen, executive vice-president.

SRO Indicated

(*Continued from page* 1)

hear and interview Johnston at MPAA headquarters here. A search was on for a larger meeting place.

Johnston, with James A. Mulvey, who represented the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers in the London negotiations, will arrive on the *Queen Mary* shortly before noon. They are accompanied by Allen Dulles, MPAA adviser on foreign affairs, and Joyce O'Hara, Johnston's assistant.

Johnston to D.C. Today

Johnston is scheduled to leave for Washington after the meeting which starts at 2:00 P.M. today. Mulvey will leave for Hollywood tomorrow where he will report to SIMPP members at a meeting there next Tuesday.

While many doubts concerning the agreement are expected to be allayed and, perhaps, some new ones generated, Johnston and Mulvey are expected to be able to resolve numerous uncertainties which the text of the agreement has left with industry people here. Among questions uppermost is the method of allocating the sums remittable from Britain under the agreement. It is not believed that Johnston or Mulvey can do more than make suggestions in this respect and, one of the suggestions considered likely, is the appointment of a council representing all industry elements concerned in the agreement.

Functions of Council

Such a council would be empowered to receive claims for remittances, establish their validity and allocate funds from the remittance pool by joint decisions.

Numerous other questions concerning interpretation of agreement provisions likewise may have to go to an Anglo-American council, which would be set up to make decisions where interpretations may be debatable or impossible and where special problems arise, it is believed.



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Reviews

"Meet Me At Dawn"

(20th Century-Fox)

A GAY and often mischievous little satire about the loves and adventures of a professional duellist is the substance of this British production. Set in Paris at the turn of the century, the film has an endless array of tongue-in-cheek incidents that will prove a rich satisfaction to more discriminating filmgoers. The one name familiar to patrons here is William Eythe who heads the cast as the dashing gentleman with a proficiency with swords and pistols.

Excelsior Film Production, produced by Marcel Hellman and released by 20th Century-Fox, the screenplay presents the hero as a gentleman who offers his duelling services to anyone who will buy them for the purpose or for incapacitating their adversary. While in the process of "removing" a politician, Eythe meets up with an attractive young lady who is branded "Madame X" by a crusading publisher. An added bit of farcical complication develops when the mysterious "Madame X" turns out to be the publisher's own daughter. After considerable ebb and flow of excitement and comic incident, the young lady converts the duellist to a more placid calling.

Pretty Hazel Court is a crisp and endearing young spirit in the principal feminine role, while Margaret Rutherford is memorable as a gusty grandma. Thornton Freeland directed from a screenplay by Lesley Storm and James Seymour.

Running time, 89 minutes. General audience classification. Set for April release. MANDEL HERBSTMAN

"The October Man"

(Rank-Eagle Lion)

WHERE strong dramatic entertainment is acceptable screen fare, "The October Man" may be relied upon to measure up more than adequately. The J. Arthur Rank production provides another example of careful British film-making capable of capturing and sustaining the interest of the average American moviegoer.

Eric Ambler has created a story projected forcefully and sincerely, comprised of a chain of interludes rich in emotional values. The tale of a man torn by a guilt complex poses a psychological problem arrestingly worked out to a satisfying solution. It is to the credit of author and director that a subject so full of pitfalls has succeeded in reaching the screen with so much credibility.

John Mills is a man tortured with the belief that he was responsible for the death of a child in a bus crash. He feels if he hadn't taken the youngster on the trip with him she would not have died. Faced with the danger of suicide, he falls in love with a girl who dedicates herself to expelling from his mind the fear that torments him. When he is suspected of having murdered a woman in a flash of mental aberration, he is driven desperate to prove his innocence. How he clears himself and conquers the fear pushing him to destruction makes for some exciting and gripping moments.

Mills and Joan Greenwood perform earnestly as the lovers, heading a fine cast. Ambler produced the film with a high sense of realism, while Roy Baker directed effectively. The London Symphony Orchestra contributes a commendable musical background.

Running time, 91 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date, March 20. P.E.L.

"Docks of New Orleans"

(Monogram)

CHARLIE CHAN turns his sleuthing eye on the docks of New Orleans where an underworld group attempts to halt shipments of secret chemicals in order to learn their formula. Roland Winters once again plays the part of the Chinese detective who, in the course of his adventures, comes close to meeting his illustrious ancestors many times. Comedy is offered in this standard mystery drama through the efforts of Victor Sen Young as Chan's son, and Mantan Moreland, the butler.

The W. Scott Darling screenplay allows sufficient corpses to pile up to please devotees of this type of mystery. Along the way to the solution of the crimes Chan sprinkles his investigations with a liberal number of homespun maxims. It develops that the murders were committed through poisonous gas placed in radio tubes which open when high notes are reached by a singer. Armchair sleuths will find a number of planted puzzles before Chan unmasks the true killer as well as an assortment of lesser criminals. The direction of Derwin Abrahams stresses action. James S. Burkett produced.

Running time, 64 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 21. M. H.

Video Pick-Up Rights

(Continued from page 1)

by the threat of an injunction by National Broadcasting.

It was pointed out yesterday by Colonial spokesmen that theatre owners had much to gain from the success of the proposed litigation. No future date for a meeting was set to get the reactions of circuit heads.

Theatremen attending yesterday were: Arthur Mayer, Rialto Theatre; Philip Harling, Fabian Theatres; A. Gebhardt, Allied Theatres of New Jersey; Walter Brecher, Leo Brecher Theatres; J. J. Goldberg, Raybond Theatres; Kenneth Ryan and E. E. Ford, Newsreel Theatres; Harry Goldberg, Warner Theatres; Charles Horstman, RKO; Oscar A. Doob and Irving Greenfried, Loew's; Manuel Frisch, Randforce; Leonard Satz, Century, and Frank S. Irby, National Theatres.

Also attending were Alfred Emerson, president of Colonial, and Joseph Marker, video attorney.

Labor Hearing

(Continued from page 1)

feels he has been "smeared" during the hearings. CSU head Herbert K. Sorrell may also return at that time to answer testimony by marine engineer John R. Robinson, who said he had seen Sorrell's Communist Party membership card and had heard Sorrell claim party membership.

Kearns said he would call his subcommittee into executive session next week to decide whether to press perjury charges against Sorrell, who has denied being a member of the party. Besides Robinson's testimony, the subcommittee has had FBI reports that the signatures on two Communist Party documents are in Sorrell's handwriting.

Kearns Silent on 'Conspiracy'

Kearns would not comment on whether the five weeks of testimony had changed his mind on his opening charge of conspiracy between the IATSE and Hollywood producers. That will have to wait until after the next phase of the hearings, at the end of May, he stated.

The last witness today was IATSE president Richard F. Walsh, who denied Sorrell's charges of following in the Brown-Bioff footsteps and of accepting slush-fund payoffs. "Since I became president," he told the committee, "I have not accepted bribes or graft from the producers in Hollywood or anywhere in the United States." He declared that the money which Sorrell charged he had received from the two per cent slush fund from 1935 to 1940 was "not questionable. It was money received from the IATSE which I spent for the protection of IATSE workers."

Earlier, IATSE attorney Matthew Levy told the committee that the "IA" was "in the middle because it stamped out the gangster racketeers and is now trying to stamp out the Communist racketeers."

Levy told the committee that he had received the Communist Party control card and membership book receipt which he said were Sorrell's, from Michael G. Luddy, "IA" West Coast counsel. Luddy in turn had received them, Levy said, from William Hynes, former acting captain of the Los Angeles police anti-subversive activities squad. Levy stated that Hynes got the cards from his undercover men, who had withdrawn them from the files at Communist Party headquarters in Los Angeles.

'Collusion' Again Denied by 'IA'

In his concluding statement to the committee, Levy said: "We entered into no conspiracy, engaged in no act of collusion. Every act was for the protection of the membership of "IA," done openly and above-board, for the purpose of not being deprived by this combination of forces of the "IA's" work tasks and jurisdiction."

IATSE international representative Roy Brewer told the committee in his final appearance on the stand that the CSU was set up "for the specific purpose of creating jurisdictional disputes" and that the Conference "completely violated the basic relationships of AFL unions to each other."

'IA' to Convene

(Continued from page 1)

risdictional strike and the current Congressional hearings relating to it. The "IA" executive board will meet following the convention to rule on resolutions and recommendations introduced by delegates. A banquet will be held on the evening of the convention's last day.

Every exhibitor can't play "The Mating of Millie" —but every exhibitor will love it when he sees it!

GLENN FORD · EVELYN KEYES

in a truly great family picture...

The Mating of Millie

A COLUMBIA PICTURE





He gives the scene its heartbeat...

THIS meeting of mother and child is no make-believe—not to the movie-goers!

To them, it is as real as life itself, thanks to the director of the picture. Through his perceptive handling of action, dialogue, and camera, he has given the scene its human touch, its heartbeat . . . made the audience feel its warmth, its mood—and live the moment, one with the personalities on the screen.

And this achievement is the mark of his mastery of the dramatic; the gauge of his creative contribution to the motion picture art.

But if such artistry is to have full expression, the director must have the assistance of film that gives him ample freedom to achieve the effects he desires. This freedom he finds in the family of Eastman motion picture films.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 54 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1948 TEN CENTS

20th-Fox Net In 1947 Was $14,000,000

Equivalent to $4.81 Per Common Stock Share

Twentieth Century-Fox last year made a consolidated net profit of $14,000,000, it was estimated here yesterday by Spyros P. Skouras, company president. Figure encompasses the distribution company as well as its voting-controlled subsidiaries, including National Theatres and Roxy Theatre, Inc. Profit for the previous year was $22,619,535.

After deducting dividends on prior preferred and convertible preferred stocks, last year's profit is equivalent to approximately $4.81 per share on 2,796,016 shares of common outstanding last Dec. 27. Common stock outstanding on Dec. 28, 1946, totaled 2,756,462 shares and per share earnings for 1946, after deducting preferred dividends, were equal to $7.90 per share.

Last year's gross income amounted

(*Continued on page* 5)

Col. Stockholders Weigh Cohn Pact

Columbia stockholders will meet here on April 9 to elect seven directors and to vote on a new employment contract for Harry Cohn, president, covering five years from March 27, 1947.

The meeting will also vote on a proposed option agreement whereby Columbia would grant Cohn options to purchase 75,000 shares of the company's common stock at its initial price of $16 per share. The stock is now selling at around $11 a share on the New York Stock Exchange.

The following present directors of the company have been nominated for

(*Continued on page* 5)

Pact With Petrillo Held Aid to Video

Important advances were foreseen for television as a result of a three-year agreement reached here yesterday by the four major radio networks and James C. Petrillo's American Federation of Musicians, permitting the use of "live" music on television programs.

Status of Hollywood-made features

(*Continued on page* 4)

Back from UK Tax Settlement

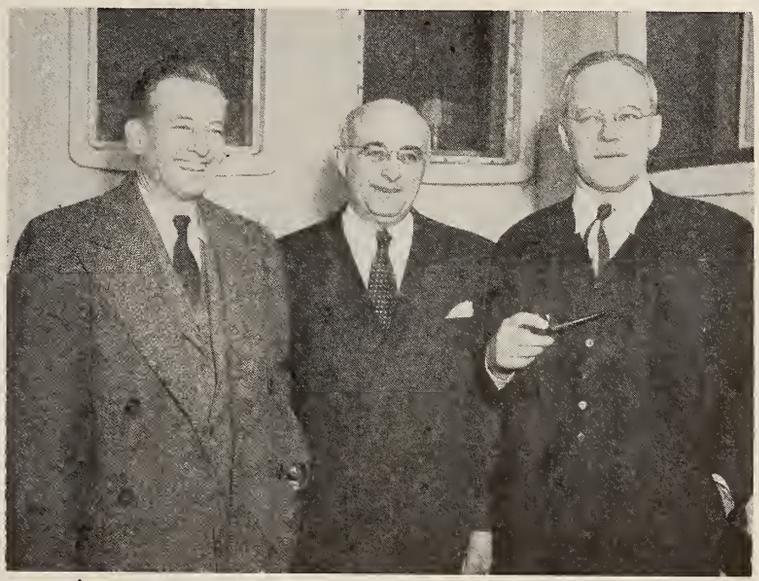


Photo by Acme

RETURNING yesterday from London conferences which resulted in Britain's lifting of the 75 per cent ad valorem duty on film imports were (shown left to right): Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president; James Mulvey, who represented the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, and Allen Dulles, MPAA adviser on foreign affairs. Above photo was taken yesterday aboard the S. S. Queen Mary as the ship sailed into New York Harbor.

Britain Can More Than Support Tax Agreement

Name 'Dinty' Moore WB District Head

F. D. (Dinty) Moore, branch manager for Warner Brothers in Pittsburgh, has been promoted to Eastern district manager by Ben Kalmenson, vice-president in charge of distribution. Moore, who will have headquarters in Boston, has been with the company for 10 years, starting as a salesman in Pittsburgh.

Paul Krumenacher, salesman in Pittsburgh, has been promoted to replace Moore as Pittsburgh manager.

Sam Lefkowitz will confine his entire activities to supervising sales in the New York Metropolitan district. The changes take effect on Monday, March 29.

In the Warner theatre division Pat R. Notaro, manager of the Bromley Theatre, Philadelphia, has been appointed city theatre manager in Havana, under Herbert Copelan, zone manager. He will leave here on March 25.

LONDON, March 18.—The survey of Britain's economy which Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps made public prior to the recent *ad valorem* tax settlement made allowance for an even greater British dollar expenditure for films than will occur under the Anglo-American tax agreement.

This announcement was received by the House of Commons today from Glenvil Hall, financial secretary of the British Treasury, in reply to questions in Commons on what forms of dollar expenditure will require curtailment on the basis of the economic survey as a result of the film tax settlement.

Told that it may be difficult to persuade people with his answer, Hall reiterated that Britain is not only not spending extra dollars for film rentals but is spending less than half of what was allowed in the survey. (MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported yesterday that House of Commons critics of the tax settlement were scheduled to be-

(*Continued on page* 5)

See Formula For UK Fund Allocations

Johnston, Mulvey Suggest Individual Film's Net

Division of the remittable earnings of American films in Britain is likely to be on a monthly basis and in accordance with earnings of individual pictures in that market, Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, and James Mulvey, representative of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, negotiators of the British tax settlement, agreed at a press conference here yesterday following their arrival from England.

Earlier, Johnston and Mulvey reported on the settlement at a large meeting of industry executives at the Harvard Club. In conjunction with that meeting, voting directors of the Motion Picture Export Association formally approved the settlement and voted the removal of the embargo on shipment of

(*Continued on page* 6)

Blumberg Calls Tax Agreement Fine Job

Eric Johnston and James Mulvey did a splendid job in the British tax settlement and are to be congratulated, Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, exclaimed here yesterday as he arrived with Joseph Seidelman, Universal vice-president, from London aboard the *SS America*.

Blumberg declared the solution constituted "one of the finest jobs done for the industry" and that "all scars are healed now." He reported that the

(*Continued on page* 6)

Hughes' RKO Stock Deal at Standstill

Hollywood, March 18.—Howard Hughes' negotiations for purchase of a controlling interest in RKO from Floyd Odlum's Atlas Corp. have made no recent progress and prospects of a deal being concluded in the near future are remote, informed sources here said today.

Personal Mention

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, 20th Century-Fox president, is scheduled to fly to London next Friday from New York.

•

PHIL REISMAN, RKO Radio foreign sales vice-president, and ROBERT WOLFF, managing director in Great Britain, will leave here for the Coast next week.

•

AL HORWITZ, Universal-International Eastern publicity manager, will be in Philadelphia today from New York to appear on three of the city's local radio stations.

•

MITCHELL RAWSON of M-G-M's publicity department here, will return to New York Monday from Washington.

•

PAUL HOLLISTER, RKO Radio national publicity director, left here yesterday for Chicago, en route to Hollywod.

•

J. J. O'LEARY of the Comerford Circuit, was elected president of the Scranton, Pa., Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on Wednesday.

•

JACK OSSERMAN, RKO Radio Latin American supervisor, is due to arrive here on Monday from Rio de Janeiro.

•

VICTOR PEERS, production manager of Transatlantic Pictures, will leave here today by plane for London.

•

L. J. SCHLAIFER, Eagle-Lion distribution executive, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will arrive in Hollywood Monday after vacationing in Arizona.

•

HOWARD STRICKLING, M-G-M studio publicity chief, has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

HAL ROACH flew to Hollywood yesterday from New York.

Wallis Planning to Make Three Abroad

Producer Hal Wallis, who releases through Paramount, plans to make a picture in England this autumn, and one in Italy later, he has disclosed here. Meanwhile, he said, he expects to discuss with Anatol Litvak, when the latter arrives in New York next week, the possibility of making a film in France. Wallis and his partner, Joseph Hazen, are currently negotiating with Paramount officials for the release of future product.

Wallis' next, "The Accused," will go before cameras on the Coast next month, leaving one more to make under his expiring four-year contract with Paramount, to complete a total of 12.

Economies 'Healthy' For Coast: Lasky

RKO Radio producer Jesse Lasky, who has made 1,016 pictures since he started in the industry 35 years ago, believes Hollywood's latest excursion into cutting production costs is a thoroughly healthy one, has in no way impaired the quality of product, and has served thus far to remove much of the "slack" which characterized operational methods in the past. He made this observation at a luncheon for the press yesterday at the Sherry Netherland Hotel, here.

"Miracle of the Bells," Lasky's latest, would have cost about $2,000,000 were it being filmed at the present time, whereas it actually cost $2,250,000 because it was produced before economies were started, he said.

But Lasky envisions even greater savings in the production of his next, "Trilby," which will go before the cameras in August. Now budgeted at $1,750,000, "Trilby" would have cost $2,250,000 six months ago, the producer said. He feels, however, that production costs are still too high, and attributes this fact largely to producers' attempts to excel their preceding efforts and to "union conditions." Lasky said he will follow "Trilby" with Ferenc Molnar's "The Play's the Thing," although meanwhile he may produce John Galsworthy's "The Apple Tree," in England.

Lasky commended the trade press for its role in industry affairs. "The trade press," he said, "can be depended upon to come through with criticism of the industry when criticism is needed, and encouragement when encouragement is needed."

Loan Drive Meeting Opened by Treasury

WASHINGTON, March 18. — The Treasury's conference on ways to push the coming security loan drive opened here today.

First industry topper who showed up for the meeting was Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the Theatre Owners of America, who was on hand for the work session in the day and made a brief speech at an evening banquet. Others are expected at the conference tomorrow. Among those invited are Ted Gamble, Si Fabian, E. V. Richards, Robert Mochrie and Eric Johnston.

It is the hope of Treasury officials that some film plans can be included in the over-all program.

In opening the meeting, Secretary Snyder cited the film industry, which he said had "given generously of its time and talent to savings bond programs."

Gamble in Washington for FDR Foundation Meeting

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Ted R. Gamble, president of the Theatre Owners of America, is here for a meeting of the executive committee and board of directors of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Foundation in the White House today.

Other industry leaders either on the executive committee or board of directors are Frank Walker, Spyros Skouras and Harry Warner.

News Briefs

"Waltz" First for Para. at Music Hall Since "To Each"

Paramount's Technicolor production, "The Emperor Waltz," which co-stars Bing Crosby and Joan Fontaine, has been booked by Radio City Music Hall here, becoming the company's first picture to play that house since the four-week engagement of "To Each His Own," which opened on May 23, 1946.

Two other pictures have been booked by the Hall ahead of the Billy Wilder-Charles Brackett production. The first is M-G-M's "State of the Union," Frank Capra's, and "The Pirate," M-G-M Technicolor musical. The former will succeed "I Remember Mama," current tenant of the Hall.

"Blandings" at Astor March 25

"Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," RKO Radio comedy being released by Selznick Releasing Organization, will have its world premiere at the Astor here on March 25.

Dismissal Denied Universal Heads in Stock Option Suit

Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkin yesterday denied in U. S. District Court here motions by Universal and eight of its directors for dismissal of minority stockholder Bertha T. Aine's suit charging the directors with improper stock option deals made prior to 1945.

New First-run Theatre Opens In D.C., Another in April

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Opening with the showing of "The Roosevelt Story," the DuPont Theatre today became a new first-run theatre here. Today's performance was for the benefit of the District of Columbia "Crippled Children's Drive." F. W. Mann Corp. owns the theatre and Clark Foreman is general manager.

Meanwhile, opening of another first-run is slated for early next month.

150 UA Workers Get $6.75 Raise

Flat increases of $6.75 were granted to some 150 United Artists home office employes in an arbitration award, it was announced here yesterday by the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild.

Films in Public Life Up at Review Meet

The 39th anniversary conference of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures took place yesterday in the Hotel HcAlpin here, with "The Motion Picture in Public Affairs" as the theme.

First speaker was Martin Quigley, Jr., associate editor of MOTION PICTURE DAILY and *Motion Picture Herald,* who discussed the British tax settlement, the industry anti-trust [illegible] now before the U. S. Supreme Court, theatre operations, and Hollywood. The title of his talk was "The Industry's Year."

Hollywood was the subject of an address by Jesse L. Lasky, co-producer of "The Miracle of the Bells." Edwin J. Lukas, executive director of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, spoke on "Do the Movies Influence Behavior?" Completing the list of speakers was Joseph Lilly, special assistant to George P. Skouras, president of Skouras Theatres Corp.

Richard Griffith, executive director of the board, presided.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
IRENE DUNNE in GEORGE STEVENS' Prod. of
"I REMEMBER MAMA"
Barbara BEL GEDDES Oscar HOMOLKA Philip DORN
Produced by HARRIET PARSONS
Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD to RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE
MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

RUSSELL JANNEY'S "THE MIRACLE OF THE BELLS"
starring FRED MacMURRAY
Valli
FRANK SINATRA
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

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EDDIE CANTOR • JOAN DAVIS
in 'If You Knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE • BOBBY DRISCOLL

Robert Maureen Clifton
YOUNG • O'HARA • WEBB
"SITTING PRETTY"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE—ART MOONEY • BETTY BRUCE
Extra! AL BERNIE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

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Gentleman's Agreement

New York—The longest-run record in the entire history of 20th Century-Fox!

and...

In Chicago—Boston—Cincinnati—
Cleveland—Philadelphia—
San Francisco and Los Angeles

Boxoffice Barometer reports that of the 40 top pictures in current release it is the industry's No. 1 attraction—*topping the next top hit by 64%!*

and... Already Rebooked for
Repeat First-Runs Los Angeles
and Pittsburgh!

20th CENTURY-FOX

359 Key-City Dates Easter Week!

Legion Classifies 21 Additional Pictures

National Legion of Decency has classified 21 additional pictures, 10 of which are listed in Class A-I, seven in A-II and four in Class B.

In A-I are: "Blondie's Reward" and "West of Sonora" (Columbia); "Four Faces West," formerly "They Passed This Way" (United Artists); "I Remember Mama" (RKO Radio); "Madonna of the Desert" and "Oklahoma Badlands" (Republic); "The Tioga Kid" (Eagle-Lion); "Trail of the Mounties" and "Where the North Begins" (Screen Guild), and "The Search" (M-G-M).

In A-II are: "The Big Clock" (Paramount); "Homecoming" (M-G-M); "Mating of Millie" (Columbia); "October Man" (Eagle-Lion); "Springtime" (Four Continents); "Road to the Big House" (Screen Guild), and "Spaete Liebe" (German-Wien Film). Classified in the B category are: "Casbah" (Universal-International); "Freunde" (German-Wien Film); "Henry IV" (Italian-Superfilm), and "I Became a Criminal" (Warner).

'Outlaw' Set for 15 Houses in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 18.—"The Outlaw," released by United Artists, will play day and date in 15 outlying theatres here starting April 9. This is the first booking of the film to neighborhood theatres here since it opened at the Oriental more than a year ago, although it subsequently played the Rialto downtown several months ago. The film reportedly has been sold on top percentage terms and as a single feature in all situations.

Pact With Petrillo

(*Continued from page* 1)

is not altered by the pact; they are still covered by AFM's contract with producers. Under this agreement, which is due to expire Labor Day, the use of music on film sound tracks is prohibited in television. However, the agreement reached here yesterday makes possible the production of films with musical sound tracks by the television networks themselves, or by independents not covered by the AFM understanding with the major studios.

Yesterday's announcement said "a complete settlement" had been reached on all issues in negotiation between the AFM and the networks since last December. Petrillo's ban on "live" music for video went into effect in February, 1945.

Contracts now in effect between AFM locals in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, and the network stations in those cities, are renewed for three years. There will be no changes in salary schedules or in the number of musicians employed.

In the field of television both parties agreed to cooperate fully. Musical programs broadcast on AM networks may also be broadcast on television simultaneously, and musicians employed under the AM contracts will be available for television assignments.

Lifts Ban for Child Aid

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, has relaxed his ban on recordings to permit the making of records by American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children in its current campaign to raise $60,000,000 for the relief of distressed millions abroad, Spyros P. Skouras, chairman of the New York City campaign, announces.

Eastern Pa. Allied Charges Violations

PHILADELPHIA, March 18.—"There appears to be no question or doubt that several major film companies are violating the provisions of the (lower) court's decision" in the industry anti-trust suit, Eastern Pennsylvania Allied general manager Sidney Samuelson charges in a report to the unit's board of governors.

Samuelson was instructed by the organization "to bring these violations to the attention of the proper authorities," the instructions applying particularly "to coercive sales methods which are in direct violation not only of the court's decision but also of published instructions apparently given sales executives in New York to their field staffs," an organization bulletin states.

Approving unanimously all actions of the national board of Allied, taken at its annual meeting in Washington last month, Eastern Pennsylvania Allied resolved: (1) To give full support to national Allied's anti-Ascap campaign; (2) to disapprove the Motion Picture Foundation, and, (3) to vigorously promote in Eastern Pennsylvania the national program.

Odeon in Canada Damaged by Flood

TORONTO, March 18.—Odeon Theatres of Canada suffered an estimated $12,000 loss when a flash flood at nearby Brampton, Ont., swept into the Odeon, submerging the main floor under five feet of water. Opening of the theatre, originally scheduled for Monday, has been indefinitely postponed.

K-MTA Board Backs 'Delinquency' Plan

KANSAS CITY, March 18.—Strong endorsement of the Theatre Owners of America's public relations plan and for combatting juvenile delinquency was voted today by the board of directors of Kansas-Missouri Theatre Association following a report by R. R. Biechele, a TOA director, on the recent meeting in Los Angeles.

Biechele, Senn Lawler of Fox Midwest and M. D. Cohen of the Paramount Theatre here, will attend a TOA committee meeting in New York on Monday to set up the program.

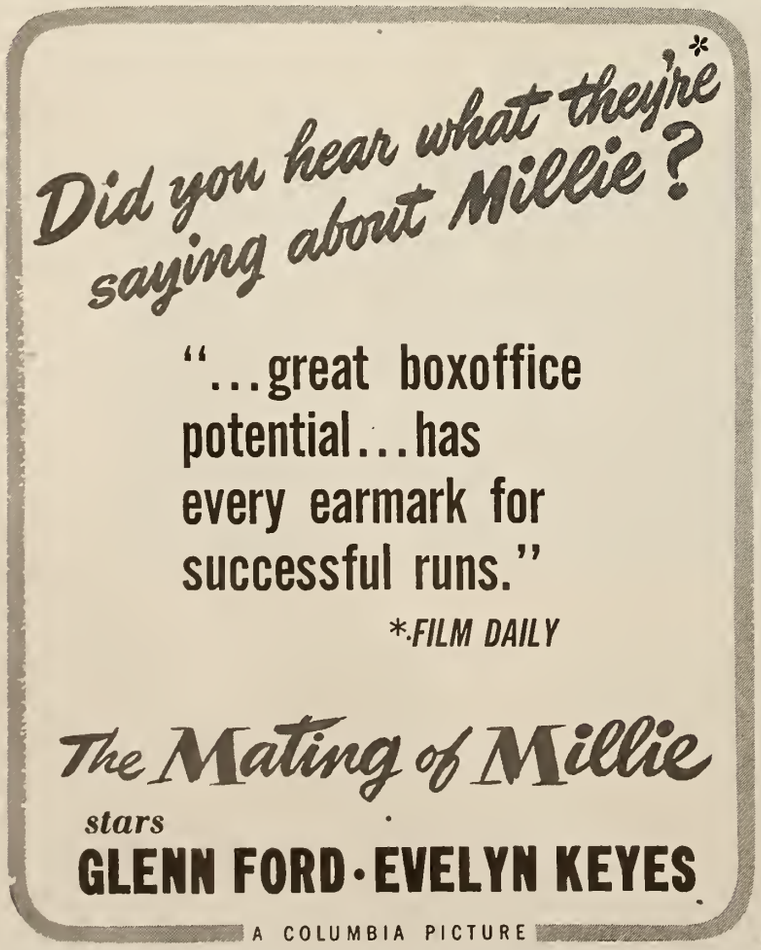
Sam Abend of Exhibitors' Film Delivery Service attended today's meeting for a discussion of film delivery charges and promised cooperation to reduce costs to theatremen.

Forbstein Services

LOS ANGELES, March 18.—Rabbi Edgar Magnin officiated at funeral services here today for Leo Forbstein, Warner musical director, who died on Tuesday. Pallbearers were Sam Bischoff, David Butler, Harry Rapf, Arthur Stebbins, Ray Heindorf and Herman Kamp. Honorary pallbearers were Jack L. Warner, Eddie Mannix, Sam Briskin, Darryl Zanuck, William Goetz, Ben Kahane, Max Steiner, Edward Blackburn, Pan Berman, Alfred Stan, Vic Aller, Casey Chung and Harold Brown.

Moe Wax's Mother Dies

PHILADELPHIA, March 18.—Funeral services will be held here today for Mrs. Hannah Wax, 70, mother of Moe Wax, Pennsylvania circuit owner and publisher of the *Film Bulletin*. Mrs. Wax died in Atlantic City on Wednesday.





'U' Warrants to Scully and Fox

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Three Universal officers—William A. Scully, Matthew Fox and Joseph H. Seidelman—were given warrants to purchase 3,000 shares of Universal common each on December 16, according to a Securities and Exchange report on trading by company officers and directors, covering the period between December 11 and January 10, the SEC disclosed here today.

Fox reported holdings of 28,000 at the end of the period; Scully had holdings of 11,550, and Seidelman had 12,000. Fox and Seidelman received their warrants as compensation, while Scully's represented a distribution.

Universal also told the SEC that 131 executives, directors, producers and players drew $7,298,899 during the year.

Parliament

(*Continued from page* 1)

gin attacking it as being in conflict with the Cripps survey—Ed.)

Additionally, several Commons members bitterly attacked British Board of Trade president Harold Wilson's suggestion that American film distributors might possibly invest in British hotels part of the unremittable balance of their earnings here. Wilson protested the suggestion was made to cite only one possible outlet for American balances. He promised to do nothing which would unfairly prejudice the interests of Britain's hotel industry.

Meanwhile, a government spokesman assured the House of Lords today that there will be no lowering of the exhibitors' quota.

Col. Stockholders

(*Continued from page* 1)

re-election to the board: Harry Cohn; Jack Cohn, executive vice-president; A. Schneider, vice-president and treasurer; N. B. Spingold, vice-president in charge of advertising-publicity; A. Montague, distribution vice-president, and Leo M. Blancke and Donald S. Stralem.

The directors own common shares as follows: Harry Cohn, 139,127 shares; Jack Cohn, 48,969; Schneider, 12,679; Spingold, 16,439; Montague, 8,632; Stralem, 968. Blancke owns none personally, but has a contingent interest in a trust which owns 100 shares of cumulative preferred.

According to the stockholders' meeting notice, the five officer-directors received during the last fiscal year remuneration, paid or accrued, as follows: Harry Cohn, $197,600; Jack Cohn, $132,600; Schneider, $93,600; Spingold, $82,300; Montague, $130,000. Montague's compensation exceeded by $49,000 the amount of his compensation for the previous fiscal year. Compensation of the others includes expense allowances of $15,600 to Harry Cohn, $15,600 to Jack Cohn, $10,400 to Schneider, and $5,200 to Spingold.

The board has unanimously recommended to the stockholders that they approve the proposed employment contract for Harry Cohn. His last employment contract was for the two-year period commencing July 1, 1943. Since July 1, 1945, Cohn has not had a written employment contract, but has been receiving the same compensation as provided in his last pact. The proposed new contract provides that during the period of Cohn's employment the company will not confer on any other employee superior or equal authority over its studio and production. The board also approved the stock-purchase option for Cohn.

Durbin, Goetz Top 'U' Salary List

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Deanna Durbin was top Universal salary-earner for the year ending last November 1, according to a report filed by the company with the Securities and Exchange Commission today. She drew $323,478.

Next in line were William Goetz, with $284,000, and Robert Montgomery, with $250,000.

The report also disclosed the following officers' bonuses or shares in profits for the year: Nate Blumberg, $71,785; J. Cheever Cowdin, $71,785; Matthew Fox, $35,606; Charles D. Prutzman, $35,606.

Universal declared that 14 per cent of its common stock, or 134,375 shares, were held by General Cinema Finance Corp. of London, one of J. Arthur Rank's top holding companies.

McIntosh's House Burns

NEW ORLEANS, March 18. — The Regina Theatre, at Mize, Miss., owned by L. R. McIntosh, was destroyed by fire.

Europeans Are Now Film Shopping: Havas

Send Europe quality pictures and they will do terrific business, Michael Havas, RKO Radio general sales manager in Continental Europe and the Near East asserted here yesterday on his arrival on the *SS America*. Havas is here for home office conferences. He reported that people in Europe have begun to shop for films, adding, "They take only good ones." He contrasted this condition with years ago "when anything went."

The British tax solution was seen by Havas as "having a good psychological effect upon other countries, by proving that American pictures are needed."

20th-Fox Net

(*Continued from page* 1)

to $174,400,000, compared to $184,375,175 in the previous year. Consolidated net profit before taxes and minority interests were deducted totaled $25,000,000 last year, against $39,934,308 in 1946. Taxes last year amounted to $9,100,000, compared with $14,650,000 in the previous year.



John H. Harris
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Pittsburgh, Pa., says:

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Johnston Sees U. S., U. K. Films on Rise

Belief that the Anglo-American *ad valorem* tax settlement will be a stimulant to competition and an aid to the development and growth of the U. S. and British film industries was voiced by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, upon his return from London yesterday morning aboard the *SS Queen Mary*.

In discussing some of the provisions of the agreement that ended the tax controversy Johnston disclosed that the division of monies allowed to be taken out of Great Britain by the American industry will be based on earnings of each individual picture in that country. He said that independent producers, even if not members of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, will enjoy the same rights as other companies to share the benefits and make pictures in Great Britain.

Need Sterling for Production

James Mulvey, president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions who represented the SIMPP at the London tax conferences, enlarged on this point, asserting that under the agreement any individual independent producer can make a picture in Great Britain provided he has sterling funds available there or obtains approval from the "control commission" set up under the terms of the settlement.

According to Johnston, the agreement emphatically bars any discrimination against U. S. companies or in the matter of playing time for American pictures.

Expects 'Some' Criticism

The MPAA head said he was prepared for some criticism of the agreement on this side.

Besides Mulvey, returning with Johnston were Joyce O'Hara, his executive assistant, and Allen Dulles, MPAA adviser on foreign affairs. Also among passengers on the *Queen Mary* was F. E. Hutchinson, Paramount's managing director of sales for Great Britain.

See Formula

(*Continued from page* 1)

American films to England, effective upon the repeal by Britain of its 75 per cent *ad valorem* film import tax.

Repeal of the British tax is expected on April 6. The American industry's embargo on film shipments to Britain was imposed immediately following the imposition of the tax by Britain last August.

Johnston and Mulvey declined to estimate the total amount of revenue which the American industry might realize from all permitted sources during the first year of the agreement, which begins June 14 next, pointing out that it is impossible to estimate earnings of pictures which may be made by Americans in Britain with their blocked sterling, or amounts of dividends which might accrue to them from sterling invested in Britain in other approved ways.

See Over $40,000,000 Earned

Also, they declined to estimate what the American earnings of British pictures in the United States, its possessions and the Philippines might be under the agreement, although they conceded "an increase" over the estimated $4,000,000 believed to have been earned by British pictures here last year is to be expected. The agreement permits the American industry to take $17,000,000 out of Britain annually during the agreement period, plus the equivalent of British film earnings here.

By generalizations it was indicated that the combined figure might be less than $24,000,000. However, sums earned outside of England by pictures made there with blocked sterling would also accrue to the producers of such pictures and dividends from any permitted investments in England also are remittable to the investors.

Johnston and Mulvey clarified several points on which industry officials here have been in disagreement since the settlement was announced. For example, it was stated that the earnings of British films in Canada and Latin America are not included in the sums to be put into the American dollar pool.

However, a member of the American industry who used his blocked sterling to buy a British picture or an interest in one, would be entitled to receive the Latin American earnings of such a film in addition to its earnings in the United States, its possessions and the Philippines, it was explained.

It was also made clear that American companies which produce pictures in Britain with their blocked funds are entitled individually and exclusively to the earnings, if any, of such films outside of Britain. Earnings of such films in Britain will come under the provisions of the agreement.

Johnston and Mulvey said that no special financial privileges accrue to the distributors here of British films. All such earnings, regardless of the distribution organization, are credited to the industry's dollar pool and will be disbursed accordingly. Thus, companies such as Universal, Eagle-Lion, 20th Century-Fox and United Artists, which distribute the bulk of British product in this market, will realize no advantage from that fact when the dollar earnings of the British pictures are allocated.

While the basic $17,000,000 from Britain will be divided here monthly, Johnston and Mulvey indicated that the dollars earned by British films here probably will be allocated quarterly throughout the agreement period. In both instances, however, the division of dollars is expected to be on the basis of current earnings in Britain of individual pictures. This arrangement would safeguard independent producers and smaller companies.

The control committee to be established in London to pass upon permitted uses of blocked American film earnings there probably will be comprised of an MPAA and an SIMPP representative, both resident in London, and by representatives of the British government and industry. In cases of tied votes, the British Board of Trade's decision will be final, Johnston said.

The MPAA chief indicated, however, that he regardes the permitted uses for blocked sterling as liberal, almost limitless. He indicated he believes much of it will go into production in Britain and that a large amount will be used for other direct industry purposes throughout the sterling area, including the purchase of theatres where such purchases are not prohibited.

Some 'Hard to Please'

Asked about general reaction to the settlement and some criticisms which have been heard that the free dollar amount is trivial, Johnston remarked: "Some people are hard to please."

He reiterated statements he made before leaving England that the settlement is "not a victory for either side." Johnston explained that the American industry wanted the film tax eliminated. It achieved that but to do so it relinquished dollars, thereby permitting Britain to realize its aim, which was to prevent a burdensome dollar drain for American films. In addition to saving dollars, Britain also is certain to get increased American film production and increased playing time for its pictures in this market, both of which will redound to the benefit of the British film industry.

Johnston left for Washington last night and Mulvey for the Coast, where he will report to the SIMPP on Tuesday.

Blumberg Hails Pact

(*Continued from page* 1)

settlement was received in England "as a major public event."

While not disclosing the nature of the problems discussed in London with J. Arthur Rank, he did state that "matters worked out very satisfactorily." It is understood he talked new product deals with Rank. Blumberg asserted that the immediate plans of Universal in England depend on the text of the settlement, which, he declared, he had not seen yet.

While in England, Blumberg said he saw the Laurence Olivier production, "Hamlet," which he declared one of the great pictures of all time.

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VOL. 63. NO. 55 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1948 TEN CENTS

Film Quality Guaranteed, Johnston Says

Despite Economies, He Adds on NBC Hook-up

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Eric Johnston told a nationwide radio audience, last night that because of war-shattered world economies Hollywood is faced with the urgent responsibility of cutting its operating costs without sacrificing quality. "It isn't going to sacrifice quality," the president of the Motion Picture Association of America said in a broadcast over the NBC network. "In fact, the end result will be quite the contrary," he declared.

In discussing the recently concluded British film import tax agreement, Johnston said:

"Hollywood has been busy these long months of deadlock and impasse. Even in the most hopeless hours of disagreement our producers knew that the quality of their product must be maintained. Not only in spite of a curtailed market but more so because of it.

"There's an old saying in Hollywood that there's no problem in the motion picture industry that a good picture can't cure. Hollywood, during this time, has dusted off this axiom, framed it in a prominent place and is living by it.

"Good pictures, like good products of all kinds, can sometimes mean better pictures when necessity mothers invention.

"It is my opinion that as we move

(*Continued on page* 8)

New Move to End Curb on Building

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Senate conferees on a bill to extent rent controls indicated they would probably accept a House provision ending the Government's controls over theatre construction March 31. The bill, which passed the Senate, would extend these through April 30, 1949, but conferees said they are prepared to give up this provision in return for concessions elsewhere.

There is a bare possibility, however, that the conferees will still be deadlocked on other controversial rent bill provisions on March 31, the date on which the present law expires. In that case, the present law, including the theatre construction limitation, might get a simple 30-day extension,

NOTICE

THIS ISSUE AFFECTED BY PRINTERS' STRIKE CALLED LAST NIGHT.

Lewis Measure Called Burden For Producers

Bill Would Boost Cost of Production, Says MPAA

WASHINGTON, March 21.—That the Lewis Bill seeking to relieve exhibitors of any direct licensing tax "will completely saddle the motion picture producer and distributor with the expense of acquiring performing rights in music" is charged by the Motion Picture Association of America in a memorandum setting forth the MPAA's reason for opposing the measure.

"This would place the producer or distributor at the mercy of Ascap," argues the memorandum.

"If performing rights must be acquired by producers and/or distributors, those rights will become much more costly. This cost will have to be passed along to the exhibitor and, in the final analysis, to the ultimate consumer, namely, the public."

The memorandum will be submitted by Edwin P. Kilroe, chairman

(*Continued on page* 8)

France, Italy Cite Warner Relief Aid

WASHINGTON, March 21. — As Washington officialdom continued work on the Marshall Plan for government help to Western Europe, the nation's capital signalized the completion of the program of spontaneous non-governmental help sent by the people of the United States to the people of France and Italy—the Friendship Food Train.

The gratitude of French and Italian recipients of more than 45,000,000 pounds of American Friendship Train

(*Continued on page* 8)

Laudy Laurence to Leave SRO Apr. 15

Laudy L. Laurence, Selznick Releaing Organization vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, has requested an indefinite leave of absence, beginning April 15. Laurence is recuperating from a spinal operation at New York Hospital, and has been ordered by his doctors to take a long

(*Continued on page* 8)

Personal Mention

NATE BLUMBERG, Universal president, will leave here tomorrow for Hollywood.

•

GEORGE WOODHAM-SMITH, general counsel of the Rank Organization; JACOB SEGAL, Columbia International vice-president and treasurer, and MRS. SEGAL; KAY HARRISON, Technicolor vice-president; MARGERY RHODES, British star, and MARTHA RAYE and her husband, NICK CONDOS, are among passengers who sailed for England on the *SS Queen Mary* over the weekend.

•

OTTO BRAEUNIG, RKO Radio office manager in Cleveland, who is celebrating his 25th year with the company, will be honored with an "Otto Braeunig Week" March 28-April 3, as part of the 1948 "Ned Depinet Sales Drive."

•

HERBERT JENNINGS, who managed Loew theatres in Atlanta, Memphis and Indianapolis, and also Schine houses in New York and Ohio, has been named manager of Warners' Madison, at Albany, N. Y.

•

MARVIN H. SCHENCK, Loew vice-president and Eastern studio representative for M-G-M, will return here today from a vacation at Hot Springs, Ark.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M general sales manager, and EDWIN W. AARON, his assistant, are due back in New York from the Coast.

•

JOHN P. BYRNE, Eastern M-G-M sales manager, is due back in New York today from New Haven and Boston.

•

JOSEPH HARRIS, Realart board chairman, and MRS. HARRIS have returned to New York from a vacation at Boca Raton, Fla.

•

MARK I. FINKELSTEIN, Cinema Circuit executive, and MRS. FINKELSTEIN, have become parents of a daughter.

•

BEN BACKMAN, manager of the Commodore Hull Theatre, Derby, Conn., recently underwent an operation at Bridgeport Hospital.

•

MEYER FINE, head of Associated Circuit, Cleveland, and MRS. FINE have returned to that city from a Florida vacation.

•

FRANK CAPRA, producer, and DON MACELWAINE, M-G-M studio publicist, will leave Hollywood Friday for Washington.

•

WALTER MACEWEN, co-producer of "The Miracle of the Bells," will go to England at the end of April.

•

ALBERT DEZEL, president of Albert Dezel Productions, returned to New York over the weekend from Detroit.

Set 'Youth Drive' Plans Here Today

Ted R. Gamble, Theatre Owners of America president and chairman of TOA's public relations committee, plans to recruit public relations committe membership from among the 15 theatremen who will convene at TOA headquarters here today to set in motion exhibition's national campaign to combat juvenile delinquency along the lines advanced by U. S. Attorney-General Tom Clark. After it is formed, the public relations unit will hold its first meeting later this week in New York.

The campaign against juvenile delinquency, tentatively termed the "Youth Week" drive, is headed by National Theatres president Charles P. Skouras. Working with him at today's meeting will be Gamble, Robert W. Coyne, TOA national director; M. J. Mullin and Harry Browning, Boston; Earle Hudson, Detroit; Walter Morris, Knoxville; S. H. Fabian, New York; Edward Levin, Chicago; Charles Winchell, Minneapolis; Richard Kennedy, Birmingham; Frank Starz, Dallas; Richard Beichele, Kansas City; Tom Friday, Scranton; George Kerasotes, Springfield, Ill.

Keynoting the scope of the public relations committee's plan of operations, Coyne said: "Exhibitors are dissatisfied with the artificially-created sense of depression about Hollywood and its product. The funereal publicity emanating from the studios is affecting theatre business. We intend to launch a public relations program that will tend to dispel some of that Hollywood gloom."

Map Industry Aid In Treasury Drive

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Tentative plans for enlisting motion picture industry support for the Treasury's "Security Loan Drive" were drawn up here at a three-day meeting which ended yesterday. The drive will open on April 15.

Plans include wide distribution of a specially-revised print of Warner's "Power Behind the Nation," asking the Motion Picture Association of America to designate a producer for a two-minute trailer on the drive, and getting exhibitors to cooperate by using posters and other display material in theatre lobbies.

Theatre Owners of America executive director Robert Coyne was on hand for all three days of the talks, while TOA president Ted Gamble arrived on Friday.

Charlotte Film Depot

CHARLOTTE, March 21. — Shipping and storage depot of Carolina Film Service will open here tomorrow. John Vickers is president of the firm. Shipping and inspection of films of Eagle-Lion and Film Classics will be handled at the depot. Vickers added that pictures distributed by Selznick Releasing will also be handled at the depot in the near future.

News Briefs

Seek Permit Control System For Adult Films in Ottawa

OTTAWA, March 21.—Details of a move to place adult entertainment features under a permit-control system whereby pictures approved for adult audiences would be released only to approved theatres, have been announced by O. J. Silverthorne, Toronto chairman of the Ontario Censor Board.

Silverthorne asserted that since Jan. 1, 1946, exhibitors had broken regulations which require the designation of adult entertainment in theatre advertising for films so graded. Under the permit plan, adult pictures would be ordered withheld from theatres which violate government rules.

Hutner Joins 20th-Century Fox Publicity Staff Under Bell

Meyer Hutner, former newspaperman, has joined the publicity staff of 20th Century-Fox, here, Charles Schlaifer, director of advertising-publicity, announces. Hutner, who had been a staff member of the *New York Journal-American* and *New York Post*, will be a newspaper contact, working under Ulric Bell, publicity manager.

Granada Theatres '47 Profit Was $312,900, Marking a Rise

LONDON, March 21. — A profit of £78,225 ($312,900) for the year ending last September has been announced by Sidney Bernstein's Granada Theatres. Figure compares with £68,191 ($272,764) profit for the 1946 fiscal year. This year's dividend on the ordinary (common) stock remained 10 per cent.

Gamble Attends Fund Meet

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Theatre Owners of America president Ted Gamble on Friday attended a committee and board of directors meeting of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Foundation. President Truman is honorary president of the Foundation. Gamble is chairman of the campaign fund drive, which starts next year.

PRC Files $7,500 Counter Claim

A counter-claim for $7,500 was filed in U. S. District Court here by Producers Releasing Corp. against Producers Releasing Corp. de Cuba, along with a denial of charges contained in the latter's $250,000 breach-of-contract action alleging failure to deliver 10 pictures for distribution in Cuba.

New Stephen Foster Series

Crystal Pictures, New York, has acquired from Admiral Pictures, all foreign distribution rights to a new series of 12 two-reel dramatic musical shorts, based on "The Life and Songs of Stephen Foster."

Name Bagnall Fund Chairman

HOLLYWOOD, March 21.—George Bagnall has been named chairman of the local industry campaign to re-enlist donors to the Motion Picture Relief Fund.

Newsreel Parade

ADDRESSES by President Truman mark newsreel highlights in current issues. Also included are scenes of the Red crisis, St. Patrick's day parade, sports, fashions, etc. Complete contents follow:

MOVIETONE NEWS, No. 23—President Truman asks for American strength to stop Reds. UN to investigate Soviet seizure of Czechoslovakia. Communistic coup. Funeral for Masaryk. "GI" shot by Reds in Vienna. Hundreds of U. S. tanks and trucks shipped to Turkey. "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay" world premiere. St. Patrick's day parade. Basketball.

NEWS OF THE DAY, No. 257—Red crisis stirs nation; developments in Washington, New York, Paris, Vienna, Lake Success and Prague.

PARAMOUNT NEWS, No. 60—Peace in a free world. President Truman denounces Soviets. St. Patrick's day talk by President Truman.

UNIVERSAL NEWS, No. 237—President Truman asks Congress for military training and aid to Europe. President Truman reviews St. Patrick's day parade in New York; rejects aid from Wallace. Cardinal Spellman attacks Stalinism. UN presses Czech inquiry.

WARNER PATHE NEWS, No. 62—"Mama's" hats come back. President Truman asks for draft, visits New York. Sixteen nations further recovery. Vienna "GI" shot by Reds. Basketball. Great Americans: James Madison.

Daily Video Reel to Bow on Coast Today

What is described as another milestone in television is promised for achievement today when a new daily newsreel service for television stations will be inaugurated by Telenews Productions, in association with International News Service and News Photos.

Initial telecast of the daily newsreel, INS said here over the weekend, will take place in Los Angeles on the Don Lee Broadcasting System's West Coast station W6XAO. It will subsequently appear on other television stations throughout the country.

The daily reel will consist of eight minutes of news subjects filmed throughout the world, for projection to television audiences on Mondays through Fridays.

In addition to the daily reel, Telenews-INS-INP will continue its present weekly newsreel digest which was inaugurated in January and which is now being presented over television stations in New York, Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee.

Golden Slipper Club To Honor Lasky

PHILADELPHIA, March 21. — The Golden Slipper Square Club will stage a testimonial dinner on Tuesday, March 30, at the Broadwood Hotel, in honor of Jesse L. Lasky, pioneer producer, who will come here to celebrate his 35th year in the industry. A host of Hollywood personalities will attend.

Jack Shlifer, president of the club, will preside at the testimonial, which will be followed by a reception for Lasky.

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Carrier Fees Are NCA Target Today

MINNEAPOLIS, March 21.—A theatre-scale film televising demonstration and "skyrocketing" charges by carriers for outstate film shipments have been added to discussions of "coercive" film-selling and Ascap, to highlight the semi-annual convention of North Central Allied, to be held at the Nicollet Hotel here tomorrow and Tuesday.

The television demonstration, which will be held at the Beck Studios at the Lyceum Theatre tomorrow night, will be the first mass video demonstration for exhibitors in this area and was added to the convention agenda because of "the uncertain role video will play in the future of motion picture production and exhibition," according to Stanley Kane, NCA executive director.

Kane will tell the meeting of 150 exhibitors that the rising cost of film shipments represents "nothing short of highway robbery" and will indicate the matter will be placed before the proper state carrier regulatory bodies.

Allied States president William Ainsworth, H. M. Richey and others will speak at tomorrow's luncheon. Ainsworth will stress Allied's drive against Ascap and "coercive" film-selling. The late afternoon session is to be devoted to reports of president Ben Berger, Kane and various committees, as well as discussions of trade practices and threatening competition from 16mm. films and drive-ins.

4 Percentage Suits Filed in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 21.—Steve Bennis has been named defendant in four percentage suits filed here in U. S. District Court by Universal, Warner Brothers, RKO and Loew's.

Complaints are similar to those filed in various other Federal courts throughout the country, each alleging a conspiracy by the defendants in making and submitting returns of the receipts derived from exhibitions of plaintiff's percentage pictures.

Theatres involved are the Lincoln and Grand in Lincoln, Ill., and the Freeport in Freeport, Ill.

Attorneys for each plaintiff are Brown, Hay and Stephens, Springfield, and Mayer, Meyer, Austrian and Platt, Chicago.

Court Upholds House Group's Query Right

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Ruling in a case involving the contempt conviction of officers of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, the U. S. Court of Appeals held at the weekend in a two-to-one decision that the House Committee on Un-American Activities is constitutional and may legally inquire whether a witness is a Communist.

Ten Hollywood writers and directors, convicted of contempt of Congress for allegedly refusing to tell the Un-American Activities Committee whether or not they are Communists, have challenged the House committee's right to pursue that line of questioning and are planning to take their case to the U. S. Supreme Court, if necessary.

Review

"The Search"

(Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

THE simple story of a young boy's struggle to find his mother somewhere in the war-torn ruins of Europe has been turned into a great and moving drama. Presented with taste and authenticity, it touches the core of mass emotions. It is a piece of merchandise which an exhibitor can show with pride. Commercial aspects are furthered by the spontaneous acclaim that is already greeting the film in magazine and newspaper features, as well as on the radio.

Some interesting facts surround the making of the film, for which M-G-M sent a special unit to the American zone of occupied Germany. Produced in the documentary technique that currently is very much in vogue, it has only four professional actors in its large and superbly-disciplined cast. In the central role of the homeless war-orphan struggling for readjustment and emotional stability in a seemingly hostile world, nine-year-old Ivan Jandl cuts a heroic figure. He certainly is a "find." Others are Montgomery Clift, an American "GI" who picks up the hunted little boy and labors patiently to set his steps once more toward laughter and security; Aline MacMahon, an an UNRRA worker; Metropolitan Opera star Jarmila Novotna, who portrays the boy's mother, and Wendell Corey, another soldier of occupation.

The original screenplay, by Richard Schweizer in collaboration with David Wechsler, is a proficiently-ordered job that builds up honestly and dramatically to its final climax. Along the way are unfolded some unforgettable scenes of homeless and wandering children whose minds are haunted by memories of war atrocities. The film marks serious entertainment in touching form.

Produced for M-G-M by Lazar Wechsler, its sensitive direction was handled by Fred Zinnemann, with photography by Emil Berna. Commendations are in order in every department.

Running time, 105 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, not set.

MANDEL HERBSTMAN

Enterprise Needs Photogenic Lobster

State of Maine's Sea and Shore Fisheries Commissioner Richard Reed has instructed 40 of his fish wardens to comb the Maine coast to find "the world's most photogenic lobster," which will "play" a feature role in Enterprise Productions' "No Minor Vices," slated to go into production on the Coast March 29, Enterprise press agents reported here at the weekend.

Gov. Horace Hildreth, Enterprise said, will personally select the winning lobster from among the "candidates" submitted by the wardens, and will fly it to the studio.

Cole Did Not Refuse To Answer Probers

LOS ANGELES, March 21. — Film writer Lester Cole, suspended by M-G-M, did not refuse to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee, in the opinion of U. S. District Judge Leon R. Yankwich. Cole and nine other Hollywood figures are facing trial in Washington on charges of contempt of the committee which charges they refused to tell it whether or not they are Communists. Cole took into Federal Court here a demand for immediate reinstatement to his $1,500-per-week position at M-G-M. Yankwich is expected to make a decision in the case this week.

J. J. Donahue to Move Office to Chicago

CHICAGO, March 21.—J. J. Donahue, Paramount Central division sales manager, will move his office from New York to the company's branch here in about three or four weeks. He will be permanently located here.

Monogram Quarter Profit Was $69,029

Monogram's net profit for the final quarter of 1947 was $69,029, Steve Broidy, company president, reported here at the weekend. Quarterly profit before provision for Federal taxes was $92,214, he said. Figures compare with a profit of $176,286, before taxes, and $112,218, after taxes, for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Company operations for the second half of last year resulted in a loss, before taxes, of $75,599, and a loss, after taxes, of $122,983. The same period for 1946 showed a profit, before taxes, of $344,973 and, after taxes, of $216,999.

Gross income, after eliminating inter-company transactions, for the second half of last year, amounted to $4,493,218, against $3,826,568 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Kalmenson Names Woods to New Post

Donald Woods, Warner branch manager in Dallas, will be transferred to the same post in the company's exchange in Detroit, according to Ben Kalmenson, distribution vice-president. Woods replaces Robert H. Dunbar, who has been granted an indefinite leave of absence due to illness. Woods has been with the organization some 20 years.

The change is effective on Monday, March 29.

New Conn. Candy Tax

HARTFORD, March 21.—Connecticut theatre candy sales are among affected items under a new state sales tax, due April 1. The new tax (one per cent) exempts all purchases under 25 cents. Previously, under the old three per cent tax, one cent was charged on purchases from 13 to 35 cents; two cents on purchases from 36 to 70 cents.

Additional Reports Listed by the SEC

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Stock-trading reports on transactions by film company officers and directors, disclosed by the Securities and Exchange Commission, in addition to those listed here at the weekend, follow:

Columbia: A. Montague sold 200 common shares, leaving 8,432 remaining; he also had 10,426 warrants for Columbia common.

Loew's: J. Robert Rubin gave away 100 shares of common, leaving a net of 3,840. Loew's, Inc., bought 90 shares of Loew's Boston Theatres' $25 par common, with a final holding of 122,983 shares.

Holdings of Para. Executives

Paramount: Leonard Goldenson acquired 200 shares of common by transfer, and gave away 500, leaving a net holding of 600. Jointly with his wife, Goldenson transferred 200 shares, leaving 1,000. Stanton Griffis, with 9,000 common shares reported at the end of the period as having distributed 500 shares of the T. G. Latouche trust, leaving 4,500. Griffis is also listed for 5,000 shares in the Nixon Griffis trust, 6,000 in the F. K. Griffis trust, and 2,800 in the W. E. Griffis trust. Austin C. Keough is reported to have given away 500 shares of Paramount common, leaving 1,500. Maurice Newton is listed for the gift of 25 shares, leaving 18,605. The Maurice Newton trust is listed for 18,380 shares.

RKO: Ned E. Depinet gave away 300 shares of common with 20,700 reported at the end of the period.

Republic: Walter L. Titus, Jr., acquired by gift 250 shares of common, bringing his personal holdings to 690 shares. He reported over 100,000 shares in other holdings. During November he bought 100 shares. He also has 12,200 shares of $1 cumulative preferred under the name of Antonsen Realty Co.

10 Common Shares to Skouras

Twentieth Century-Fox: Spyros P. Skouras acquired by distribution 10 shares of common, bringing his holdings to 5,260 shares. Skouras also acquired 23 shares of $1.50 cumulative preferred. These are the only preferred shares listed for him.

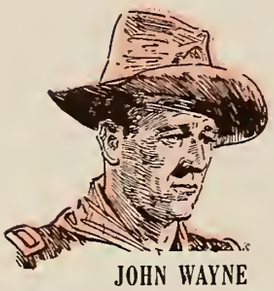
Warners: Albert Warner gave away 1,600 shares of common, leaving 430,400. His trust reported 21,000 shares. Harry M. Warner gave away 1,750 shares common, with 293,250 remaining. The Harry Warner Trust reported holdings of 16,000. Jack L. Warner gave away 2,000 shares of common, leaving 425,000 at the end of the period. His trust reported holdings of 21,500.

Meanwhile, Republic Pictures also reported its top wage earners. They were: Frank Borzage, with $271,939; Herbert J. Yates, $175,140, and John Carroll, $149,000.

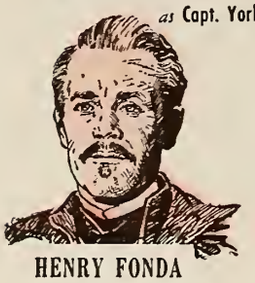
Harry J. Shumow, 53

CHICAGO, March 21. — Harry J. Shumow, 53, former branch manager for Loew's in Milwaukee, was crushed to death in San Francisco Wednesday, according to reports reaching here. The accident occurred when a model house front, being prepared for a housing show, collapsed under him. His brother Jack Shumow, is branch manager for Warners here. Deceased is survived by the widow, Lillian and a son, Sheldon.

JOHN FORD'S MASTERPIECE



JOHN WAYNE
as Capt. York



HENRY FONDA
as Colonel Thursday



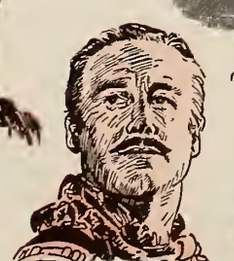
SHIRLEY TEMPLE
as Philadelphia Thursday



PEDRO ARMENDARIZ
as Sergeant Beaufart



WARD BOND
as Sergeant O'Raurke



GEORGE O'BRIEN
as Capt. Collingwood



VICTOR McLAGLEN
as Sergeant Mulcahy



ANNA LEE
as Mrs. Collingwood



IRENE RICH
as Mrs. O'Raurke



DICK FO
as Sergeant Q



JOHN FORD *and* MERIAN C. COOPER
present

JOHN WAYNE
HENRY FONDA
SHIRLEY TEMPLE
PEDRO ARMENDARIZ

FORT APACHE

Directed by JOHN FORD

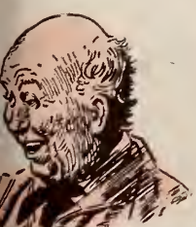
Screen Play by FRANK S. NUGENT
AN ARGOSY PICTURES PRODUCTION
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES

A ROUSING EPIC OF GRIT A

OF FRONTIER DRAMA!



GLORY IN THE DAYS WHEN THE WEST WAS WON!



GUY KIBBEE
as Dr. Wilkins



GRANT WITHERS
as Meacham

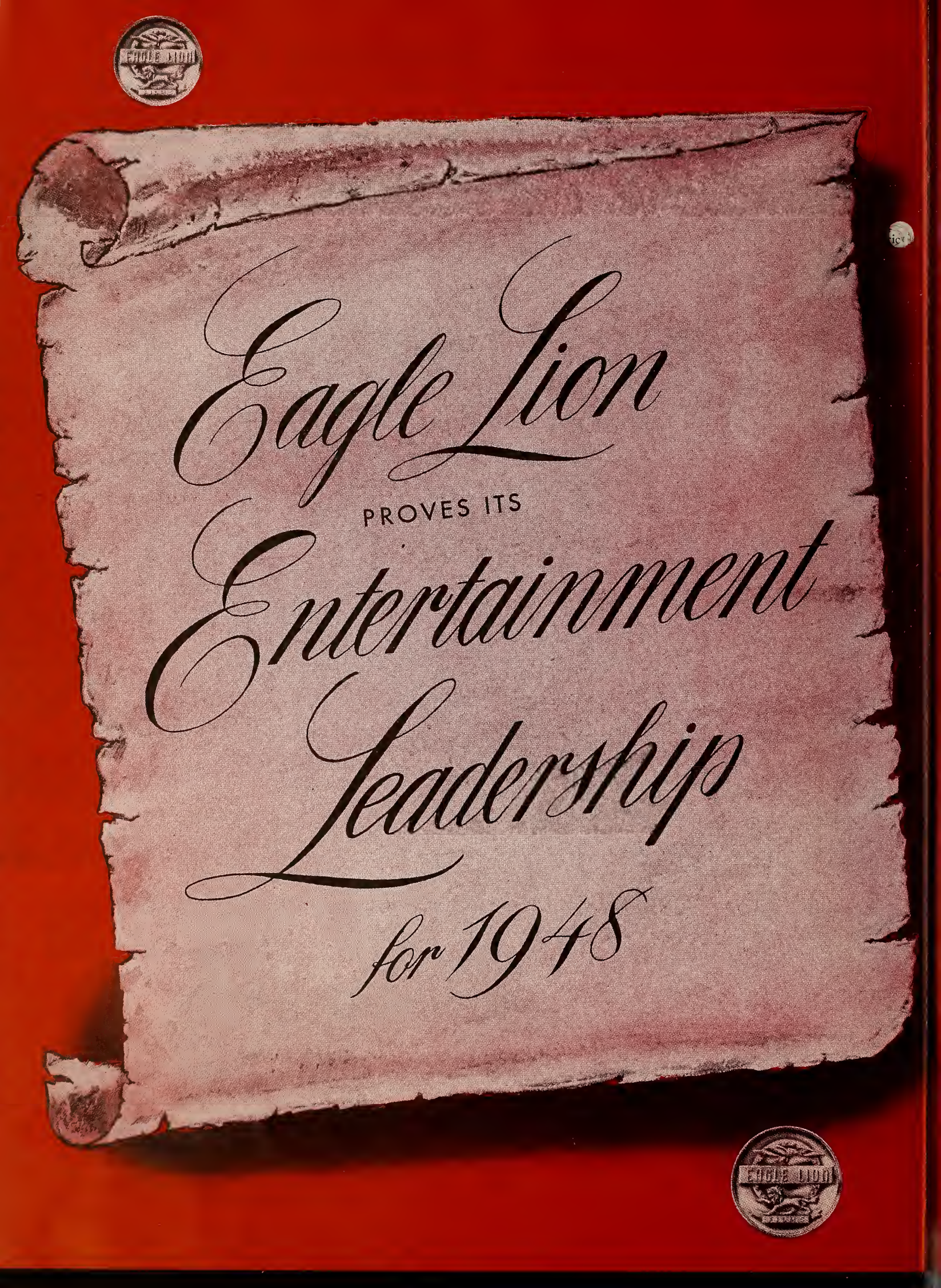


MAE MARSH
as Mrs. Gates



and introducing
JOHN AGAR
as Mickey O'Rourke

Majestic in sweep . . . breath-taking in action! . . . Lusty, reckless, laughing cavalrymen against the red man's proudest, fiercest tribe... as loyal women love—and wait!


Eagle Lion
PROVES ITS
Entertainment
Leadership
for 1948

Most Riotous of Farces — Saucy, Sexy, Spicy!"—Louella Parsons

GEORGE BRENT • VIRGINIA MAYO • TURHAN BEY
ANN DVORAK • CAROLE LANDIS *in*

"OUT OF THE BLUE"

From the story by Vera Caspary, author of "Laura"

"If You're Looking for Chills and Thrills," says Hedda Hopper, see

JOHN HODIAK • SYLVIA SIDNEY • ANN RICHARDS *in*

"LOVE FROM A STRANGER"

with John Howard • Isobel Elsom

"T Men the New Thrilluloid!"—Walter Winchell

"T-MEN"

starring DENNIS O'KEEFE
with Mary Meade • Alfred Ryder • Wally Ford
June Lockhart • Charles McGraw
Presented by EDWARD SMALL

Magnificent Thrills as the El Paso Kid Rides the West!

"THE MAN FROM TEXAS"

starring JAMES CRAIG • LYNN BARI • JOHNNIE JOHNSTON
with Una Merkel • Wally Ford • Harry Davenport • Sara Allgood

Another Terrific Drama by the Men Who Made "T-Men"!

"RAW DEAL"

starring DENNIS O'KEEFE
CLAIRE TREVOR • MARSHA HUNT
Presented by EDWARD SMALL

Enchanting Teen Age Story—with Screen's New Singing Sensation!

"MICKEY"

IN CINECOLOR!
starring LOIS BUTLER *with* Bill Goodwin • Irene Hervey
John Sutton • Hattie McDaniel • Skippy Homeier
Based on the prize-winning novel, "Clementine," by Peggy Goodwin

The Greatest Lover-Fighter of All in Swashbuckling Spectacle!

"ADVENTURES OF CASANOVA"

starring ARTURO DE CORDOVA • LUCILLE BREMER
TURHAN BEY • NOREEN NASH
and cast of thousands

All-Star Drama of a Man Whose Lust for Power Destroyed Him!

ZACHARY SCOTT • LOUIS HAYWARD
DIANA LYNN • SYDNEY GREENSTREET
LUCILLE BREMER • MARTHA VICKERS *in*

"RUTHLESS"

Produced by ARTHUR S. LYONS

Filmed on an Unparalleled Scale of Outdoor Action!

JOAN LESLIE • JAMES CRAIG • JACK OAKIE *in*

"NORTHWEST STAMPEDE"

IN CINECOLOR!
Suggested by Saturday Evening Post article, "Wild Horse Round-Up"

The Screen's Favorite Zanies—in their Best—and Funniest!

BUD ABBOTT • LOU COSTELLO *in*

"THE NOOSE HANGS HIGH"

with Joseph Calleia • Leon Errol • Cathy Downs

Suspenseful Story of a Man Who Lives Another Man's Life!

PAUL HENREID • JOAN BENNETT *in*

"THE SCAR"

(formerly "Hollow Triumph")

Screen's Most Alluring Star Teamed in a Tender Dramatic Romance!

HEDY LAMARR • ROBERT CUMMINGS *in*

"LET'S LIVE A LITTLE"

(Tentative Title)

4 Important Walter Wanger Productions

A Story of High Dramatic Power!

"THE BLANK WALL"

starring JOAN BENNETT

Thrill After Thrill—Thundering Adventure!

"THE BASTILLE"

starring RICHARD BASEHART

Fabulous Story of a Red-Headed Pirate Beauty!

"ANNE OF THE INDIES"

starring SUSAN HAYWARD

Strike-It-Rich Saga of a Roaring Boomtown!

"TULSA"

starring SUSAN HAYWARD

Lewis Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

of the MPAA's copyright committee, which prepared it, at the opening of hearings on the bill tomorrow morning before the House judiciary subcommittee on patents and copyrights, of which Rep. Earl R. Lewis, who introduced the measure, is chairman.

The MPAA contends that the cost of pictures will be increased by the bill rather than decreased, "because performing rights fees will be increased by the societies controlling them," pointing out that "ultimately these increased costs must necessarily be passed on to the public."

"Motion picture exhibitors, because of their position in the social and economic structure," the memorandum adds, "are in a position to obtain the performing rights from Ascap or other owners on terms more favorable than the producers or distributors can obtain them."

Says Bill Alters 'Custom'

According to the MPAA, "the bill changes a long-established custom, with no commensurate benefit to the public." This "custom" is described as the practice "of acquiring recording rights from one source and performing rights from another"—a procedure termed "the universal practice throughout the world for several generations."

"This custom," the MPAA declares, "has been a natural economic development throughout the world, because of inherent copyright principles which have been universally recognized and respected, and has not been found to be contrary to the public interest in any country."

Hit Measure as 'Discriminatory'

The bill is condemned as "strongly discriminatory legislation, directed only against producers and distributors of motion pictures." The memorandum argues that "others also record or otherwise create and dispense music to be used in 'performances for profit'."

Asserting that "motion picture producers exercise only recording rights," the MPAA holds that "the ultimate licensees (places of exhibition) are the only real users of performing rights." It maintains that the change proposed by the bill "would be to make motion picture producers and distributors . . . the 'collecting agents' for the societies which are the true owners of performing rights."

MPAA asserts that the bill fails to take into consideration the distinction made in the present Copyright Act between performing rights and recording rights.

Among other organizations opposed to the measure are the Theatre Owners of America and the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers. The forces in favor of the bill are headed by Allied States. Others supporting the measure include the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners.

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Los Angeles 1574 W. Washington St

27 Films in Work As 7 More Start

HOLLYWOOD, March 21.—The production index remains at about an even keel with 27 in work, against 28 for the previous week. Cameras started grinding on seven films while eight were sent to cutting rooms.

Shooting started on "Canon City," Eagle-Lion; "The Great Gatsby" and "The Tatlock Millions," Paramount; "Fighting Back" (Wurtzel), "The Gay Intruder" (Seltzer), and "The Creeper" (Reliance), 20th Century-Fox; "A Kiss in the Dark," Warner.

Shooting finished on "Sweetheart of the Blues," Columbia; "Born to Fight," Eagle-Lion; "Stage Struck," Monogram; "Sorry, Wrong Number" (Wallis), Paramount; "The Thrill Man," Republic; "The Street with No Name," 20th Century-Fox; "The Judge's Wife," Universal-International; "Smart Girls Don't Talk" (formerly "Dames Don't Talk"), Warner.

Rep. Lewis Discloses He Is Not Committed to Bill

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Rep. Lewis, chairman of a House judiciary sub-committee which opens hearings here tomorrow on a bill to require producers to secure performing rights for film music from Ascap, said today that he is not committed to the bill, even though he introduced it.

"It was introduced at the request of one theatre organization," Lewis said, "in order to give them a chance to present their facts on this issue. I am not committed to supporting the measure."

Allied States is the sponsor of he bill.

Hearing Today, Friday

The sub-committee hopes to run the hearings through tomorrow, then they will probably have to go over until Friday, due to other meetings on the intervening days.

Witnesses for Allied States Association, headed by general counsel Abram F. Myers, will open the hearings. Other Allied witnesses are: Sidney Samuelson, Trueman T. Rembusch, Joseph P. Uvick and Martin Smith.

Five witnesses are listed for Theatre Owners of America in opposition to the bill: Ted Gamble, Bob Coyne, Herman Levy, A. Julian Brylawski and Ben Strozier. However, it is likely that Coyne will not testify unless Gamble cannot be present.

Adolph Schimel, Edwin P. Kilroe and Abe Montague are listed to testify for the Motion Picture Association. No witnesses have yet been named for Ascap.

Canada Again Curbs Equipment Imports

OTTAWA, March 21.—A complete embargo will be resumed tomorrow by the Canadian government on imports of projection and sound equipment under the emergency foreign exchange act. The ban had been suspended for a month to permit theatre companies to purchase necessary equipment for houses under construction.

Johnston Broadcast

(*Continued from page* 1)

along under the terms of the (British) agreement you will see an increasing number of superior pictures. I have said that there would be new opportunities for the exhibition of British films in America. This will mean stiffer competition for us."

Johnston said that Hollywood is under no illusions as to what the British film agreement means. He said: "It may once again be able to ship out as many pictures as before, but it must accommodate itself to getting fewer dollars back than it did in the past." He explained to his listeners that "the agreement contains provisions whereby we hope eventually to recoup a substantial portion of the unremittable share of our earnings in Great Britain without any drain on the dollar position of the British."

Laudy Laurence

(*Continued from page* 1)

rest, Milton Kramer, SRO board chairman, discloses.

Organization plans for SRO's distribution and sales in Great Britain and on the Continent were completed under Laurence's supervision prior to his return to this country, it was said, Neil Agnew, SRO president, stating that Louis Lewis had been appointed managing director of distribution for Great Britain, Europe and the Near East, and Manny Reiner, managing director for Latin America and Australasia. Allen Byre continues as SRO sales manager in Great Britain, Jean Divolies as manager in France, while Rene La Frite will continue as managing director of SNFC (SRO distributing outlet in France).

Report Progress in Canadian Film Talks

Ottawa, March 21.—Discussions with Hollywood interests, including Motion Picture Association of America president Eric Johnston, for film production in Canada to relieve the shortage of dollars were progressing "quite satisfactorily," a Canadian government official declared here the weekend. He declined to give any details, but it was pointed out that no Canadian company will be subsidized to compete with Hollywood.

Warner Cited

(*Continued from page* 1)

food was expressed here yesterday in a series of ceremonies and special events including honors from both European governments for Harry M. Warner, Warner Brothers president and national chairman of the Friendship Food Train Committee.

Italian Ambassador Alberto Tarchiani, at a ceremony in the Embassy, presented Warner with the Order of Solidarity, highest grade of the first and only decoration created by the new Italian Republic. Ambassador Henri Bonnet of France greeted Warner, already a member of the French Legion of Honor.

Cabinet members and representatives of the U. S. Diplomatic Corps were guests with Warner at a dinner tendered by Drew Pearson, newspaper and radio commentator, who first advanced the idea of a Friendship Train.



REPUBLIC'S EASTER SURPRISE

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. NO. 56 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948 TEN CENTS

NOTICE

This issue of MOTION PICTURE DAILY has been produced in part by emergency means on account of a work stoppage in a dispute between the typographical union and the employing printer.

The work stoppage was responsible for the appearance of page-one of MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday, when two columns were left open for the results of the Academy Awards.

CENSOR BILLS DIE IN KENTUCKY

WASHINGTON, March 22 - The Kentucky state legislature has adjourned without any actions harmful to the industry, according to MPA legislative agent Jack Bryson. A bill to legalize dog racing was killed, and three censorship bills were buried in committee, Bryson said. An attempt to repeal the state admission tax, however, failed.

Ten state legislatures are still in session.

SUNDAY SHOW BILL ADVANCED

JACKSON, Miss., March 22 - The House-approved bill to legalize Sunday shows in Mississippi has been passed by the Senate after an amendment was added restricting Sunday show hours from one to six P.M. The bill will now go back to the House for consideration of the amendment.

WALKER NAMED DRIVE CHAIRMAN

Frank C. Walker, former Postmaster General, who was recently awarded the Laetare Medal by the University of Notre Dame as the oustanding American Catholic layman of 1947, has again accepted the office of Treasurer of the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity for the New York Catholic Charities 29th annual appeal, for which a goal of $2,500,000 has been set. Geo. Schaefer will serve as assistant treasurer.

LEWIS BILL ATTACKED AND DEFENDED AT D.C. HEARINGS

Washington, March 22 -- A House judiciary sub-committee today in an all-day session got conflicting views from different segments of the industry on whether it should recommend passage of the Lewis bill, designed to force producers to acquire from Ascap public performing rights for film music.

From five Allied States Association witnesses, the sub-committee heard that the recent Ascap-TOA agreement offered no assurance against further rate increases, and that the Lewis Bill was necessary to break permanently the power of the "music trust".

From TOA and the Motion Picture Association, the group heard the bill was discriminatory legislation, would result in higher Ascap rates, and ultimately would mean higher admission prices for the theatre-going public.

In-between the arguments on the bill itself, the Allied witnesses took liberal swipes at TOA, and vise versa.

Abram Myers, Allied general counsel, pointed out to the committee that a price rise of even 25 per cent is "no trifling matter" for many small theatres with box-office receipts falling, and quoted the MOTION PICTURE DAILY story on Ascap's plans to seek a 500 per cent boost from theatres with regular stage show policies to prove that the end was not yet in sight.

Backing up Myers were: Sidney Samuelson, Trueman T. Rembusch, Joseph Uvick, and Martin Smith.

TOA president, Ted R. Gamble, said the basic objection to the Lewis Bill was that it deprived theatre owners of the right to negotiate with Ascap

Review

"TARZAN AND THE MERMAIDS"

RKO Radio

Better and more elaborate than any of the previous films in this series, "Tarzan and the Mermaids" was produced at the Studios Churubusco in MexicoCity and is enhanced by beautiful background and a handsome native cast in supporting roles.

Under the production guidance of Sol Lesser and directed by Robert Florey, Johnny Weissmuller and Brenda Joyce again return as Tarzan and Jane, the characters created by Edgar Rice Burroughs. In addition, the picture introduces Linda Christian as a native girl, while John Laurenz adds lightermoments with several Calypso songs.

The story concerns a native girl who attempts to escape from a river island so that she will not have to marry a pearl smuggler who has set himself up as a god. Tarzan goes to her aid and after several adventures frees her and exposes the motives of the smuggler.

The picture derives its title from the beautiful girls of the island paradise and the many aquatic scenes, many of which have been expertly photographed under water. The original story and screenplay were written by Carroll Young. Running time, 68 minutes. General audience classification. For release in March.

764 THEATRES IN BOSTON AREA

There are 764 theatres, with a seating capacity of 640,128 in the Boston exchange area, according to the Boston theatre directory which the Motion Picture Association is releasing today.

The 30th in a series of 31, the directory reveals that 419 theatres in the area are circuit-operated. Capacity of these houses is 439,226. Boston has the greatest number of theatres in the area, with 58 houses currently in operation seating 77,833. Providence ranks second in the territory with 16 theatres and 24,944 seats.

10 NEW THEATRES FOR MEXICO CITY

MEXICO CITY, March 22 - Theatre operators are among the few business men in Mexico who view the future with optimism, as demonstrated by considerable theatre building in progress. Ten theatres are nearing completion here and all are scheduled to be in service by about Aug. 15. These will give this city an exactly 100 theatres.

BLAKENEY ON MEMPHIS CENSOR BOARD

MEMPHIS, March 22 - Avery Blakeney, local attorney, has been appointed to the three-member Memphis board of censors. He succeeds Hodges Honnoll, also an attorney, who resigned. Other members of the board are Lloyd T. Binford, chairman, and Mrs. Sid A. Law.

ONTARIO LABELS FOUR "ADULT"

TORONTO, March 22 - The Ontario Board of Censors has graded four pictures as adult. The films are: "The Patient Vanishes", "Mourning Becomes Electra", "I Became a Criminal" and "Gangster".

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
IRENE DUNNE in GEORGE STEVENS' Prod. of
"I REMEMBER MAMA"
Barbara BEL GEDDES Oscar HOMOLKA Philip DORN
Produced by HARRIET PARSONS
Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

The Adventures of Robin Hood
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
STARRING ERROL FLYNN OLIVIA deHAVILLAND
BASIL RATHBONE · CLAUDE RAINS
REISSUE
WARNER THEATRE 50¢ To 1 P.M. EVERY DAY TAX INC.
B'way 51st • Opens 10:30 AM • Late Midnight Film

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in ROAD TO RIO
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE NIGHTLY

JAMES CAGNEY
PAT O'BRIEN
DENNIS MORGAN
"THE FIGHTING 69th"
IN PERSON
RUSS MORGAN AND HIS ORCH.
Plus! PHIL FOSTER
REISSUE
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9:30 AM B'WAY AT 47th
LATE MIDNIGHT FILM

RUSSELL JANNEY'S
"THE MIRACLE OF THE BELLS"
starring
FRED MacMURRAY
Valli
FRANK SINATRA
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
EDDIE CANTOR · JOAN DAVIS
in
'If You knew Susie'
with ALLYN JOSLYN
CHARLES DINGLE · BOBBY DRISCOLL
RKO RADIO PICTURES

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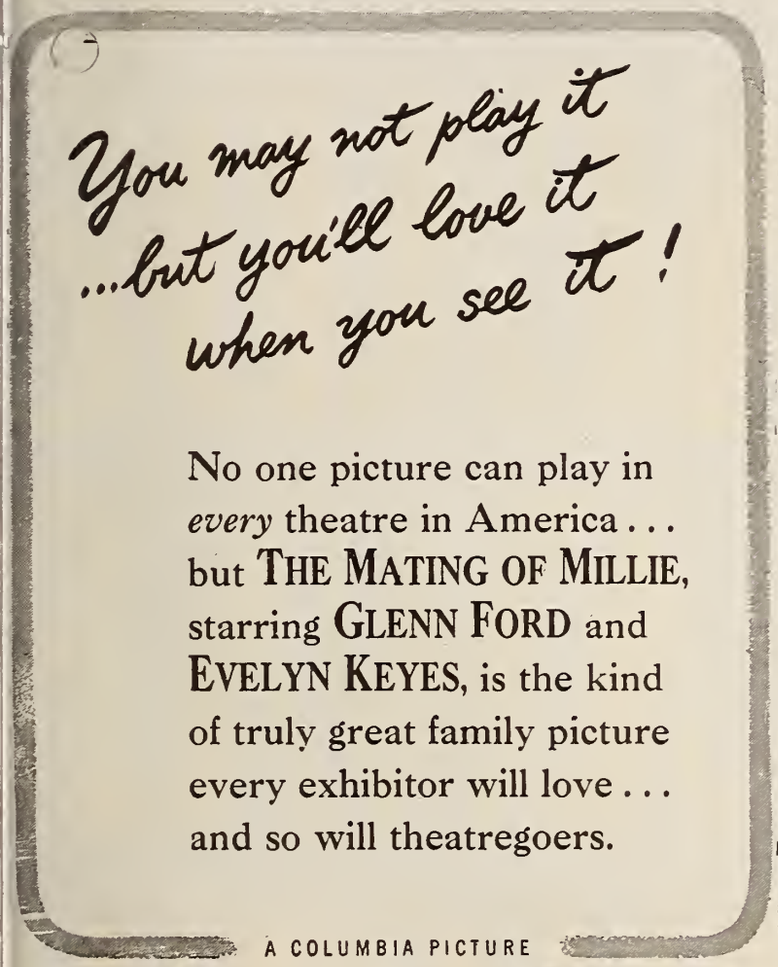
Argentina Launches 1st Film Festival

By NATALIO BRUSKI

MARDEL PLATA, Argentina, March 21.—Gov. Domingo Mercante inaugurated here at the weekend Argentina's first film festival. Thousands were on hand for the event.

All of the nation's producers have exhibits pointing up Argentine film industry progress. During the week five Argentine features will be shown. A special short has been produced for the occasion by Arturo Mom explaining how motion pictures are made.

A festival highlight will be the staging of a seashore show featuring thousands of actors, singers and musicians.





Personal Mention

MAX WOLFF, Loew's purchasing head, is on a tour of M-G-M exchanges from New York.

•

JACK ELWELL, general manager of Dixie Drive-In Theatres, has returned to Atlanta from New York.

•

WALTER MORRIS, owner of the Pike and Lee theatres, Knoxville, is vacationing in California.

•

FRANK YOUNG has been named publicity manager of WPIX, *New York Daily News* television station.

•

R. E. WARN, newly-appointed Westrex engineering chief, is in town from Australia.

•

JACK SCHWIEDELSON, former manager of the Cass Theatre, Omaha, is now managing the Benson, of Omaha, owned by the Epstein Circuit.

•

ALLEN BRADLEY of the New Ritz Theatre, Louisville, and MRS. BRADLEY have returned to that city from a Florida vacation.

•

PAULINE GRIFFITH, secretary to the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, is recuperating at her home in Charlotte following a recent operation.

•

MORRIS MECHANIC, owner of the New Theatre, Baltimore, is visiting in Miami Beach, Fla.

•

JACK WHITTLE, owner of the Avenue Theatre, Baltimore, has returned to that city from a vacation in the Bahamas.

•

J. REAL NETH, head of Neth Theatres, Columbus, is recovering from illness.

•

JAMES WALKER has been named assistant manager at the Durfee Theatre at Hartford.

D. LEONARD HALPER, head of the Warner construction and maintenance department in the Ohio zone, and MRS. HALPER, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

•

WILLIAM BLANK is the new manager of Switow Amusement theatres in Seymour, Ind., replacing GEORGE JAEGGERS, who returned to Switow's Elks Theatre, New Albany, Ind.

•

LAWSON R. DANIELS, manager of the Royal Theatre, Worcester, Mass., and MRS. DANIELS, recently became parents of a son.

ROBERT GINGERICH, owner of the Sunset Theatre, San Francisco, has purchased the Cortland from HERBERT HARRIS.

•

WILIAM MADDEN has been appointed assistant manager of the Empire Theatre in Fall River, Mass.

•

THOMAS HALLIGAN is the new manager of the Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va., succeeding FAY P. LECOMPTE.

•

SELIG J. SELIGMAN of Paramount, here, will be married next month to MURIEL BIENSTOCK of Jackson Heights, L. I.

•

LEONARD SHEA, Eagle-Lion branch manager, has been named delegate from Memphis Tent No. 20 to the national Variety Club convention in Miami next month.

Canada Wants Only Permanent Filming

OTTAWA, March 9.—The temporary character of the Canadian government's present "austerity" program with its import restrictions on certain film industry and other equipment has been emphasized in the Canadian Parliament and this will affect any plans for motion picture production in Canada solely to take advantage of present conditions due to the U.S. dollar shortage.

"The principle is simply this," declared C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce: "If an industry wishes to establish itself in Canada; if it is one which in normal times would be able to operate profitably; if it is an industry which will assist in building up exports or in conserving United States dollars, it will be welcomed. But if it is an industry being built up simply to take advantage of the temporary prohibitions, it will not be welcomed."

Reports Enthusiasm For Trailer Program

"An enthusiastic response" to its 15-point program for the betterment of trailers, was reported here yesterday by the industry trailer committee which drew up the proposals.

The committee reported a heavy demand for copies of the report containing the 15 recommendations.

CLIMAXING THE GREATEST ACC



The

ACADE
AWAR
PICTU

The Academy Award
For The
BEST PICTURE!



IM IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY!

MY
D
RE!

Darryl F. Zanuck
presents

GREGORY PECK
DOROTHY McGUIRE
JOHN GARFIELD
in LAURA Z. HOBSON'S

Gentleman's Agreement

Celeste HOLM · Anne REVERE · June HAVOC · Albert DEKKER · Jane WYATT · Dean STOCKWELL · Sam JAFFE

Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK · Screen Play by MOSS HART · Directed by ELIA KAZAN

20th CENTURY-FOX

The Academy Award
For The Best Direction
by ELIA KAZAN



The Academy Award For
The Best Performance By
An Actress in a Supporting
Role CELESTE HOLM





Congratulations

to

RONALD COLMAN

from UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL for his ACADEMY AWARD honoring his sterling performance in "A DOUBLE LIFE".

•

Congratulations, also, to Dr. Miklos Rozsa, for giving "A Double Life" the year's best musical score for a dramatic picture.

•

These awards are significant tributes, not only to Mr. Colman and Dr. Rozsa, but also to the excellent production "A Double Life".

Congratulations to the

J. ARTHUR RANK ORGANIZATION

from UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL

for the ACADEMY AWARDS won by

"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

and

"BLACK NARCISSUS"

•

"GREAT EXPECTATIONS" was honored for the best art direction, best set decoration and best cinematography among black and white motion pictures.

"BLACK NARCISSUS" was honored for the best art direction, best set decoration and best cinematography among motion pictures produced in color.

Universal International


TRAILERS ARE YOUR
BEST BUY in ADVERTISING*
*The Box Office Value of Trailers is PROVED by Women's Home Companion 1947 Survey of Motion Picture Preferences... which showed that TRAILERS DRAW 31% OF YOUR PATRONS!
NATIONAL Screen SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

63. NO. 48 57 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948 TEN CENTS

TOA Drafts "Youth" Plans

Theatre Owners of America's "Youth Month" committee, meeting here yesterday under chairmanship of Charles P. Skouras, set up a three-point program to combat juvenile delinquency with the assistance of U.S. theatres:

(1) Committee will produce a film designed to spur community anti-delinquency activities; (2) Recommends to TOA membership a "Youth Month" campaign to run from Sept.27 to Oct.31; (3) Set up a 17-man committee headed by Thornton Sargent of Los Angeles to lay plans for children's shows, trailers, youth forums and other activities.

Work On Public Relations

Plans for the new industry public relations program are expected to be worked out when Nate Blumberg, chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America's new public relations committee, gets back to New York from the Coast around the middle of April. Work on the program was deferred as a result of the Universal-International president's European trip, from which he returned recently.

U.K. Production Stressed

LONDON, March 23 --- Addressing the British Film Production Council today, British Board of Trade president Harold Wilson emphasized the necessity for maximum output of British pictures, undiminished by the Anglo-American tax agreement. The Council agreed to coordinate with the industry's own Joint Production Advisory Committee on questions of studio efficiency.

Notice

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S normal appearance is being affected by a work stoppage in a dispute between the typographical union and the employing printer.

U.S. PROBE OF INDUSTRY IS AGAIN SOUGHT BY NCA HEAD

MINNEAPOLIS, March 23 -- Ben Berger, North Central Allied president, is asking NCA board approval to place a one-page advertisement in a Washington daily newspaper calling on President Truman and Congress to investigate the industry. Industry leaders have failed to improve conditions, he said, despite the fact that he had cancelled a similar plan for ads last year.

In a report to the NCA convention, Berger said that Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, had flatly rejected Berger's request to remove Ben Blotcky as Minneapolis branch manager.

At the same time, William Ainsworth, newly-elected president of Allied States, declared that Allied would conduct an "open door policy" under which all branches of the industry would be welcome to discuss mutual problems. Ainsworth also said he plans no radical alteration in Allied policy.

Predicting theatre divorcement, H. A. Cole of Texas Allied pictured the industry as a "rotten structure" which will take five to 10 years to rebuild.

Eric Johnston Lauds Mulvey's Aid

HOLLYWOOD, March 23.- The services of James A. Mulvey were praised as "indispensable in the friendly settlement of the British film tax problem" in a telegram from Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, to Samuel Goldwyn which the producer read at a testimonial dinner given for Mulvey here tonight by the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers. Mulvey, president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions, represented the SIMPP at the London tax talks.

Broadway Grosses Still Spotty

Broadway first-run grosses remain spotty this week, with some houses enjoying excellent business.

"I Remember Mama"(plus Easter stage show), Radio City Music Hall, second week, $142,000; "The Naked City" (plus Tex Beneke's band), Capitol, second week, $121,000; "Sitting Pretty" (plus Art Mooney's band), Roxy, second week, $99,000; "Road to Rio" (plus Louis Prima's band), Paramount, fifth week, $63,000; "Bishop's Wife," Astor, 15th and final week, $22,000; "Gentleman's Agreement," Mayfair, 19th week, $25,000. Academy Award for "Agreement" is expected to bring $40,000 for 20th week, just starting. "Miracle of the Bells" is poor at Rivoli: $40,000 for first week.

Flood of Building Coming

WASHINGTON, March 23 -- With House-Senate conferees on a new rent control bill agreed on the ending on March 31 of the Government's power to curb construction, a flood of some $50,000,000 in new theatre construction is expected to be started, according to figures from the Housing Expediter.

During the past nine months the expediter's office has approved only 366 theatre projects, including remodelling, costing $15,152,992, while 981 projects, at an estimated $49,845,813, were rejected.

ORGANIZE OHIO THEATRE SERVICE CORP.

CLEVELAND, March 23-Tony Stern and Lou Ratener have resigned from Warners to establish a buying, booking and theatre management service in this area to be known as Ohio Theatre Service Corp. The theatre management department will be under Ratener.

MUNI AND ROTHMAN FORM COMPANY

Actor Paul Muni and writer-producer-director Joseph Rothman have launched a company for independent production of films and plays, spokesmen announced here yesterday. Film on the life of Alfred Nobel is slated to be their first.

Knutson Will 'Consider' Tax Cut

WASHINGTON, March 23 - House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Knutson today promised Theatre Owners of America counsel Herman Levy that his committee would give "very serious consideration" to a reduction in the admission tax in a bill to be reported out next month.

Despite this assurance, however, observers here believe that there is very little chance of an admission tax cut getting through the Senate.

BEACON AWARD TO RODNER

Harold Rodner, Warner vice-president, will receive the annual Beacon Award of the Motion Picture Associates at an MPA dinner on May 21 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here.

MPA members voted down a proposed by-laws amendment which would have permitted women members.

FACT!

Eighty-three key cities and their trading areas are responsible for the overwhelming percentage of the motion picture industry's total domestic revenue.

FACT!

The magazines represented by the ASSOCIATION OF SCREEN MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS have two-thirds of their national readership of 21,600,000 concentrated in these 83 key areas. No other national magazine can match this concentration.

Facts taken from the results of a two-year survey, now being presented to motion picture industry leaders in New York and Hollywood. If you have not yet seen this presentation, arrangements to do so may be made by contacting the

ASSOCIATION OF SCREEN MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS, INC.
37 WEST 57TH STREET · NEW YORK CITY

DELL PUBLICATIONS · FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS · HILLMAN PUBLICATIONS
HUNTER SCREEN UNIT · IDEAL PUBLICATIONS · MACFADDEN PUBLICATIONS

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"EXTRA"





SPENCER TRACY



KATHARINE HEPBURN



VAN JOHNSON



ANGELA LANSBURY



ADOLPHE MENJOU



LEWIS STONE

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

In coming weeks you will be hearing so much about Frank Capra's "STATE OF THE UNION," one of the greatest motion pictures of all time, that M-G-M wishes to acquaint the industry with the plans for its distribution.

SIMULTANEOUS BOOKINGS!

Hundreds of theatres will play this tremendous attraction at the same time across the nation, one of the greatest mass bookings in America's top theatres that has ever been undertaken in the history of our business.

IT'S THE TALK OF THE INDUSTRY!

Previewed to cheering audiences in a series of theatre showings, it gloriously fulfills every promise of its fame as a stage play. Fame for its Pulitzer Prize award! Fame for its two solid years on Broadway and its roadshows!

TIMELIEST FILM OF THE YEAR!

It's red hot up-to-the-minute entertainment! It's as sizzling as today's headlines! Regular movie patrons will flock to see it, but it will also attract millions of *extra* ticket-buyers!

GIANT CAMPAIGN!

"State of the Union" will be backed by one of the biggest promotions of modern times—in newspapers, magazines and radio—all carefully dove-tailed to break with its simultaneous release!

GREAT CAST!

No expense of cast or production was spared to bring this sensational stage play to the screen. The conflict of two beautiful women for a man, set in the national arena of current events is a powerful, pulsating motion picture that takes its place with the all-time great.

★

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Liberty Films present SPENCER TRACY • KATHARINE HEPBURN • VAN JOHNSON
ANGELA LANSBURY • ADOLPHE MENJOU • LEWIS STONE in FRANK CAPRA'S "STATE OF THE UNION"
Based on the Play by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse • Screen Play by Anthony Veiller and Myles Connolly
Associate Producer Anthony Veiller • Produced and Directed by FRANK CAPRA • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

MONOGRAM MEETING MARCH 27-28

Steve Broidy, president of Monogram Pictures, will preside at the Monogram franchise holders' annual spring meeting to be held at the Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, March 27-28.

SMPE SPRING MEET MAY 17-21

HOLLYWOOD, March 23 - Nine technical sessions have been scheduled for the 63rd semi-annual convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, May 17-21, at the Santa Monica Hotel Ambassador.

SLIGHT DIP IN PRODUCTION INDEX

HOLLYWOOD, March 23--The production index dipped to 23 against 27 in the previous week. Filming began on five films while nine were sent to cutting rooms.

LEGION CLASSIFIES FOUR FILMS

RKO Radio's "Tarzan and the Mermaids", and 20th Century-Fox's "Scudda--Hoo, "Scudda--Hay" have been classified A-1 by the National Legion of Decency. Rated A-II were: M-G-M's "The Bride Goes Wild," and United Artists' "So This is New York."



PHILA. LOCUST TO WITHDRAW "BORGIA"

PHILADELPHIA, March 23.--The Locust Theatre here has been requested by the archdiocese of Philadelphia to cancel "Lucrezia Borgia" because it has been banned by the National Legion of Decency. The theatre's ads carried this notation yesterday: "At the request of Cardinal Dougherty this picture will be withdrawn after Thursday, March 25." The film had been scheduled to run to about April 12.

LIBERTY'S OBJECTIONS OVERRULED

CHICAGO, March 23 - Objections to interrogatories filed by Seymour Simon, plaintiff's attorney in the Liberty Theatre case were overruled by Judge Barnes in U. S. District court here. Defendants were given 60 days to answer interrogatories. Next hearings are scheduled for September 27.

OMER PAQUIN, 63, DEAD IN CANADA

OTTAWA, March 23.--Omer Paquin, 63, who was in the theatre business more than 25 years, including management of the Francais Theatre here, died in a hospital from burns. He is survived by his widow, and a son and daughter.

LINCOLN STEDMAN, 41, PRODUCER

HOLLYWOOD, March 23 - Lincoln Stedman, 41, producer, died here yesterday from a heart ailment. His widow, Carol, survives.

Nat Karson Among Seven Named To CBS Video Posts Here

Nat Karson, who has served on the production staff of Radio City Music Hall here and as director of several RKO films, has been appointed consultant producer for Columbia Broadcasting's television activities. Six others named to directing posts by Worthington C. Miner, CBS television director, are: Ed Mabley and Ace Ochs, directors, and Robert Merill, Kenneth Redford, Kingman T. Moore and Hugh Muir Rogers, associate directors.

Endorse UN Child Aid Plan

HOLLYWOOD, March 23—Board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild has endorsed participation by its members in the American Overseas Aid—United National Appeal for Children.

Housing Expediter Approves Eight Permits, Rejects 13

WASHINGTON, March 23—Two theatre construction projects, at a cost of $150,000 each, have been approved by the Office of the U. S. Housing Expediter. The permits went to George Stamm, Antioch, Cal., and Minnehaha Theatre Corp., Minneapolis.



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Reviews

"State of the Union"

(Liberty--M-G-M)

FRANK CAPRA'S production of the Howard Lindsay - Russel Crouse hit play is a monumental cinematic work. A brazen, courageous indictment of U.S. machine politics, it is the ultimate in 1948 timeliness: it deals frankly with an idealist's bid for the U.S. Presidential nomination and his disillusioning joust with the professional politicos; it pulls no punches in naming names and parties, and turns an embarrassing floodlight on the corruptive influence of smoke-filled room politics. At the same time, it is a slick, sophisticated comedy, rich in brisk and pungent repartee dialogue. Come March, 1949, producer-director Capra, already a four-time Academy Award winner, should find himself the recipient of an armful of "Oscars,"

Spencer Tracy, as the presidential aspirant; Katharine Hepburn, as his inspiring, nobly-motivated wife; Van Johnson, as Tracy's campaign publicist; Angela Lansbury, newspaper owner, political operator and "other woman;" Adolphe Menjou, conniving campaign manager, all contribute sterling performances which tend to eclipse nearly everything they have done before. The cast is rounded out beautifully with A-1 supporting players.

Under Capra's inspired direction the taut screenplay of associate producer Anthony Veiller and Myles Connolly was transformed into a film of electric pace, making the more than two hours running time seem considerably less than that. Photography and all other departments shine with achievement. Running time, 124 minutes. Adult audience classification. For April release.

CHARLES L. FRANKE

"Big City"

(Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)

PACKAGED up here in an expansive production dedicated to religious amity, the American system of democracy and the brotherhood of man are an extraordinary number and variety of musical interludes performed expertly and in turn by Danny Thomas, Lotte Lehman, Betty Garrett, Margaret O'Brien, the Page Cavanaugh Trio, a boy's choir, and often by everybody in the cast. These include Hebrew chants, Catholic Masses, folk songs, plus hotcha of the hottest kind. They occur in the run of the story, rather than as production numbers, adding length and entertainment highlights to a narrative that would be less credible without them. Robert Preston, George Murphy, Butch Jenkins, Edward Arnold, Karin Booth and Connie Gilchrist are others in the large cast with emphasis so evenly distributed that all of them rate as principals. It is an odd and strangely compounded picture, purposeful in its theme, a little uncertain in its final disposition of it, but altogether a large package of entertainment with something in it for every kind of ticket buyer.

It was produced by Joe Pasternak and directed by Norman Taurog, from a screenplay by Whitfield Cook and Anne Morrison Chapin, based on a story by Miklos Laszlo adapted by Nanette Kutner, with additional dialogue by Aben Kandel. Miss O'Brien, at her best, plays the key role - that of a foundling.

Running time, 111 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

William R. Weaver



Everybody's Talking about Millie!

"Ford and Miss Keyes make a sock team. Should click with all types of theatregoers, particularly the younger set."—*VARIETY*

"Great boxoffice potential. Every earmark for successful runs."—*FILM DAILY*

"Mark this one for brisk business all down the line."—M. P. HERALD • "A natural for women. Should do well."—SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW • "A neat film package."—M. P. HERALD • "Aimed for profit."—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER • "Busts out all over with rare good humor. Just a case of keeping the route between the box office and the bank well guarded."—DAILY VARIETY

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Screenplay by Louella MacFarlane and St. Clair McKelway

Directed by HENRY LEVIN · A CASEY ROBINSON PRODUCTION



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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 58 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1948 TEN CENTS

LEWIS BILL GETS DEATH SENTENCE

SIMPP APPROVES U.K. PACT

HOLLYWOOD, March 24- Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers last night approved the agreement between the Motion Picture Association of America and the British government for termination of the UK's 75 per cent ad valorem levy on films. Approval followed a report by James Mulvey who represented SIMPP at the London conferences.

Launch TOA "Youth" Promotion

Theatre Owners of America's "Youth Month" program, under chairmanship of Charles P. Skouras, yesterday produced eight sub-committees which were assigned to formulate eight facets of promotion for the drive. Sub-committees, which will make initial reports here today, and their chairmen are:

Two-reel drive film, Edwin Levin; publicity, Ernest Emerling; trade press, Robert Weitman; trailers and newsreels, Thornton Sargent; advertising, Harry Browning; radio, Charles Winchell; special theatre activities, R.M. Kennedy; exploitation, Robert Selig.

NCA Plugs Buying Groups

MINNEAPOLIS, March 24 -- Continuing criticism of Paramount's local selling policies, Ben Berger, North Central Allied head, and other speakers urged independent exhibitors at the NCA convention here to join buying combines. The combines were described as the only way of keeping film prices down. The convention also adopted a resolution introduced by the NCA head, condemning Paramount's action in billing and posting in towns where its product is not sold.

Berger was reelected president and Stanley Kane executive director at the closing convention session yesterday.

House Judiciary View Means End for Proposed Bill

WASHINGTON, March 24 -- The House Judiciary subcommittee, which held hearings on the Lewis bill here Monday, voted today to report the Allied States - sponsored anti-Ascap measure adversely to the full committee. The action is tantamount to a death sentence for the measure, which would have made producers, instead of Ascap, responsible for licensing music performance rights in films.

Allied, in consequence, is left without an anti-Ascap program of its own, other than lending support to pending litigation involving the Society, such as the so-called Berger case in Minneapolis and the ITOA case in New York. Allied attacked the rate compromise achieved with Ascap by Theatre Owners of America during the Lewis bill hearings, thus apparently disclaiming any part in obtaining the compromise music licensing rates applicable to exhibitors for the next 10 years.

Rank to Film 30 in 1948

WASHINGTON, March 24 - British film producer J. Arthur Rank said today his organization would have about 30 feature pictures to distribute here during 1948.

He refused to estimate how much British films would net in America this year.

Rank made the statement at a joint press conference with Motion Picture Association president Eric Johnston at MPA headquarters here. Just before the conference Rank and Secretary of the Treasury Snyder had had a brief "social" visit with President Truman at the White House. Immediately after the conference Rank left for California.

Personal Mention

PAUL N. LAZARUS, JR., United Artists advertising - publicity director, has returned to New York from Hollywood . . . . J. Robert Rubin, vice-president of M-G-M, is vacationing at Tucson . . . Harry McWilliams, exploitation director of Columbia, has returned to New York from a field trip . . . Herbert T. Kalmus, Technicolor president, is due in New York from Hollywood.

H. WILLIAM AUTEN, formerly United Artists European sales executive, has become executive assistant to S. L. Seidelman, head of Eagle-Lion foreign operations . . . E-L exploitation manager Arthur Jeffrey will leave New York today for Dallas . . . Paul Sheriff and Vincent Korda, art directors, respectively of the Rank Organization and London Films, arrive here today from London . . . Jules Lapidus, Warner's Eastern sales manager,. will return to New York today from Toronto and Buffalo.

CHARLES PRUTZMAN, U-I vice-president, will return here today by plane from Europe and will leave at once for the Coast. . . Paul Mac Namara SRO advertising-publicity chief, will leave here for Hollywood today.

Discuss ASCAP Show Tax Today

Spokesmen for Warner Theatres, Loew's, RKO, Paramount, the Roxy and Radio City Music Hall will meet with representatives of Ascap this afternoon to discuss the new music tax rates for stage show houses in New York. Ascap is asking $1.25 a seat per year, as against the old charge of 20 cents. The theatre men will demand that the matter be negotiated, having refused on the advice of counsel to sign the new contracts.

The main local combination houses involved are the Music Hall, Capitol, Roxy, Paramount and Strand.

Notice

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S normal appearance is being affected by a work stoppage in a dispute between the typographical union and the employing printer.

MORE THOMAS HEARINGS DUE

WASHINGTON, March 24--A secret meeting of the Republican members of the House Committee on Un-American Activities has decided that the Hollywood investigation is "not yet finished, and must be followed through with further hearings," a well-informed source revealed here today.

The meeting was held recently at Chairman Thomas' home in Allendale, N.J., where he is recuperating from a serious illness. No date for resumption of hearings was mentioned, the report said, and this will probably be decided soon after Thomas returns to Washington early next month.

LIGHTSTONE HEADS CANADIAN MPDA

TORONTO, March 24-Gordon Lightstone, Paramount Film Service general manager here, has been reelected head of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, with David Griesdorf, president of International Film Distributors, Ltd. becoming vice-president.

PERCENTAGE SUITS AGAINST STANZLERS

PROVIDENCE, March 24 -- Percentage suits have been filed against Joseph and Meyer Stanzler, Artcraft Pictures and the Narragansett Pier Amusement Corp., by Paramount, Loew's, 20th-Fox, Warner and RKO Radio.

CHILDREN'S FILMS NOW TOTAL 160

A total of 160 pictures suitable for children is now in the Children's Film Library. They are available to theatres at a reduced rental for special shows for children, the Motion Picture Association of America announces.

SANDUSKY TICKET TAX DUE APRIL 1

SANDUSKY, O., March 24 -- The City Council has passed a three per cent tax on admissions, patterned after Cleveland's tax and effective April 1.

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20th CENTURY-FOX



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The Academy Award For The Best Picture PRODUCTION of *Darryl F. Zanuck's* GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT



The Academy Award For The Best Direction by ELIA KAZAN for "Gentleman's Agreement"

•



The Academy Award For The Best Performance By An Actress in a Supporting Role CELESTE HOLM in "Gentleman's Agreement"

•



The Academy Award For The Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role EDMUND GWENN in "Miracle on 34th Street"



The Academy Award For The Best Scoring of a Musical Picture ALFRED NEWMAN for "Mother Wore Tights"

•



The Academy Award For The Best Original Motion Picture Story VALENTINE DAVIES for "Miracle on 34th Street"

•



The Academy Award For The Best Written Screen play GEORGE SEATON for "Miracle on 34th Street"

20th CENTURY-FOX *Salutes* THESE HONORED ACHIEVEMENTS!

Reviews

"Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House"

(Selznick Releasing Organization)

BASED on the best-selling book by Eric Hodgins, Dore Schary's version of "Mr. Blandings" is a first-rate attraction steeped in quiet and hilarious comedy with an ingratiating overlay of pleasant romance involving Cary Grant and Myrna Loy, as the Blandings, and Melvyn Douglas, their best friend.

The story, of course, deals with the yen to acquire a country house. It's acquired all right, then torn down, for an entirely new one -- and an entirely new set of problems as well.

The adventures and misadventures on the way will be appreciated by anyone who ever has been embroiled in country property and understandable to those who never have. The fact is "Mr. Blandings" is almost an editorial attack on architects, contractors and builders whose costs never fall under, and always go over, estimates. But when they finish, The Blandings have a joy of a house and a joy in their hearts that make the turmoil and the handicap worth their trouble.

Performances by the three principals are excellent and support in a like tempo. H.C. Potter's direction is very good, drawing scintillation from the bright script by Norman Panama and Melvin Frank who also produced for Schary. Running time, a nice and convenient 94 minutes. General audience classification. Release in July.

RED KANN



"The Inside Story"

(Republic)

HERE IS fare for family audiences. The film is unpretentious but has warmth, simple humor and a briskness that engages the interest successfully. The picture offers a human interest story making an appeal to a variety of emotions and ages.

From a yarn by Ernest Lehman and Geza Herczeg, Mary Loos and Richard Sale have drawn a screenplay that attempts a message of faith and hope, a worthy motive even though not fully realized in the script. It is the story of how a thousand dollars passing from hand to hand alters the lives of a number of persons in a small town. Marsha Hunt, William Lundigan, Gail Patrick, Charles Winninger, Gene Lockhart head a good cast directed by Allan Dwan. Running time, 87 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, March 14.

"The Arizona Ranger"

(RKO Radio)

JACK HOLT and Tim holt, father and son respectively in real life, assume the same role in a standard Western that rates well in its category. In the original screenplay provided by Norman Houston, both dad and son are out to eliminate lawlessness, the conflict arising out of differences in methods. Nan Leslie provides the lady in peril. Herman Schlom produced; John Rawlins directed. Running time, 63 minutes. General audience classification. Released in Block 3.



To the hundreds of showmen who have joined Republic's great "BILL AND COO" Easter Parade of Bookings, we proudly announce a Special Academy Award for Outstanding Achievement to Ken Murray's full length wonder picture, "Bill and Coo" — topping a nation-wide fanfare of praise. There's never been anything like it!

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PALM BEACH, FLA.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 83. NO. 59 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1948 TEN CENTS

ERP AID FOR FILMS IN NEW BILL

WASHINGTON, March 25-The House version of the European Recovery Program would allow the ERP administrator to guarantee film companies and other information media that they will be able to convert into dollar income from any approved investment made in Marshall Plan nations, it was learned today. Total guarantee for the first year would be held to $15,000,000.

The House will get to a final vote on the measure next week.

Truman Praises UK Pact

WASHINGTON, March 25 -- A detailed personal report on the British film tax settlement was given President Truman today by Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America. While no official White House comment was forthcoming, it was understood that the President expressed hearty approval of the accord and applauded Johnston's work in negotiating it. The MPAA head also went into other aspects of the industry's foreign situation, especially the problems in France and Italy.

Seek "Highest" Quota :Wilson

LONDON, March 25 -- Harold Wilson, Board of Trade president, today told Commons that he plans to set the new exhibitors' quota at the highest practicable figure. He assured Commons he had made no commitments affecting the quota in the agreement made with Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, to end the ad valorem duty.

Discuss Public Relations

Members of the industry public relations committee, of which Maurice Bergman is chairman, met here yesterday to discuss industry public relations problems. Among those attending was Kenneth Clark, Motion Picture Association of America public relations head, who came in from Washington.

END CURBS ON NEW HOUSES

WASHINGTON, March 25 -- Government curbs on theatre construction will end at midnight March 31. Both House and Senate today approved and sent to the White House a rent control bill which terminates restrictions on construction as of that date. President Truman is expected to sign the measure promptly. The Senate originally voted to extend the limitation order through April 30, 1949, but gave in to the House, which had refused to continue the order.

Paramount Suit vs.Brandt

New York County Supreme Court Justice Null yesterday sustained five and ruled against 47 of the 52 objections raised by attorneys for Harry Brandt, et al, to charges in percentage suit brought by Paramount. Paramount's attorneys said the decision does not affect the complaint in any substantial or important way. Plaintiffs will file an amended complaint within 20 days.

Gamble Hits Child Prices

Childrens' admission prices are too high generally, and that is one reason why child attendance has dropped off considerably in the last few months, Ted R.Gamble, Theatre Owners of America president, declared here yesterday.

Ask to Restore Budget Cut

WASHINGTON, March 25 - Secretary of State Marshall and other State Department officials have asked the Senate appropriations committee to restore the $6,378,000 cut by the House from the Department's overseas information program. The House voted $28,000,000 for the program, of which, about $4,878,749 was earmarked for the motion picture program.

Personal Mention

JOSEPH R. VOGEL, Loew's vice-president, is vacationing in Florida . . . Steve Broidy, Allied Artists-Monogram president, left here yesterday for Milwaukee for a franchise-holders' meeting tomorrow . . . Richard Gordon has joined Hoffberg Productions, New York, as assistant sales manager. . . Edward Golden, of Golden Productions, is here from Hollywood.

JOE WOLF, Columbia sales manager in Boston for 11 years, has joined Embassy Pictures here as general sales manager . . . Lillian Nadel Gerard has joined Pathe Cinema here as executive assistant to Jacques Chabrier, Pathe Cinema representative in the U. S. . . . Charles K. Stern, Loew's assistant treasurer, has returned to New York from Palm Beach . . . H. M. Richey, M-G-M exhibitor relations chief, has returned here from Minneapolis.

WILLIAM J. HEINEMAN, Eagle-Lion distribution vice-president, is due back in New York Monday from Boston . . . Alvin W. Gross, M-G-M office manager in Denver, has been transferred to Milwaukee in that capacity, succeeding the late Walter Bennin . . . W. J. Cammer, Screen Guild branch manager in Dallas, will be married Sunday to Myrtle Kay Barlow of San Antonio.

SIR PHILLIP WARTER, director of Associated British Picture Corp., and Lady Warter; George Archibald, J. Arthur Rank managing director in Great Britain; Alfred Hitchcock; Margaret O'Brien, Hume Cronyn and Jean Simmons will sail for England tomorrow on the SS Queen Elizabeth.

PARA. SWITCHES WIENS TO DENVER

CINCINNATI, March 25--Walter Wiens, Paramount branch manager here, has been transferred to Denver as branch manager, succeeding the late Chester Bell. James J. Grady succeeds Wiens.

Notice

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S normal appearance is being affected by a work stoppage in a dispute between the typographical union and the employing printer.

TOA Killed Lewis Bill

WASHINGTON, March 25. -- Opposition of Theatre Owners of America to the Lewis bill was enough to decide five of the six members of the House judiciary subcommittee to seal its death sentence by voting it out adversely, a member of the subcommittee said today. Rep. Lewis of Ohio, who introduced the measure for Allied States, was the only member who voted in its favor.

The subcommittee member said that the bill, which would require producers to clear music performing rights in their films, instead of Ascap, was intended to aid exhibitors. "Since exhibitors could not agree it would benefit them," he observed, "the bill obviously does not serve its intended purpose." He added that the opposition of producers, the Motion Picture Association and SIMPP to the bill had no influence at all on the vote.

TOA Slates Public Opinion Poll

Theatre Owners of America will conduct a poll of public opinion and will use the results as a guide for its forthcoming public relations activity. Ted R. Gamble, TOA president and public relations chairman, reported here yesterday. Public's views on the industry, mainly production, will be gathered.

A seven--man public relations subcommittee has been set up by TOA to draft a program of immediate action preliminary to the appointment of the main committee which will devote itself to a long-range program. Under the chairmanship of Earl Hudson, Detroit, who will take up temporary headquarters here on Monday, the sub-committee includes: Robert Weitman, Charles Winchell, Edward Levin, Dave Jones, Senn Lawlor and Harry Browning.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
IRENE DUNNE in GEORGE STEVENS' Prod. of
"I REMEMBER MAMA"
Barbara BEL GEDDES Oscar HOMOLKA Phillip DORN
Produced by HARRIET PARSONS
Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

Robert Maureen Clifton
YOUNG • O'HARA • WEBB
"SITTING PRETTY"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
PLUS ON STAGE—ART MOONEY • BETTY BRUCE
Extra! AL BERNIE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

BING CROSBY
BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
in "ROAD to RIO"
with THE ANDREWS SISTERS
in Person LOUIS PRIMA AND HIS ORCHESTRA
CATHY ALLEN
DICK & DOT REMY
PARAMOUNT TIMES SQUARE MIDNIGHT FEATURE MONDAY

RUSSELL JANNEY'S
"THE MIRACLE OF THE BELLS"
starring
FRED MacMURRAY
Valli
FRANK SINATRA
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

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Admission Tax Cut For Italian Houses

Rome, March 21, (By Air Mail).—Admission taxes have been lowered for Italy under a new bill which establishes rates which were urged by Italian exhibitors a year ago. New taxes are now 15 per cent on admissions of 35 lira or less, 35 per cent on admissions from 36 to 100 lira, and 50 per cent on those of more than 100 lira.

The old scale was 15 per cent on admissions of 20 lira or less; 35 per cent on admissions from 21 to 60 lira, and 50 per cent on those of more than 60 lira.

Review

"Devil's Cargo"

(Film Classics)

JOHN CALVERT, as a new Falcon, a debonair detective, gets involved in a series of murders. Two victims die from bullets, another is killed in a bomb explosion and the fourth is poisoned. The Falcon and the police, with Roscoe Karns as a police lieutenant, track down the murderer. John Calvert's sleight-of-hand tricks are an interesting addition to the film, which is an average one for its type.

A man confesses to the killing of a gangster, but the Falcon suspects that he is innocent. Rochelle Hudson plays the wife of the man who confessed. She is mixed up in the killings, working with the ring-leader. The Falcon aids the police in capturing the criminal. As the police arrive in the final scene the Falcon forces the killer to confess. Philip N. Krasne produced and John F. Link directed.

Running time, 61 minutes. General audience classification.

Personal Mention

CAROL BRANDT, M-G-M Eastern editorial chief, is in England from New York.

•

JOSEPH HARRIS, Realart board chairman, and MRS. HARRIS are vacationing at Boca Raton, Fla.

•

MICHAEL JACOBSON, manager of the Mayfair Theatre, Bridgeport, has resumed his duties following illness.

•

EMIL GROTH, RKO Radio division manager in Cincinnati, is recuperating from a major operation in Christ Hospital in that city.

•

IRVING L. EISENSTAT has been appointed office manager of Century Theatres' home office here. He was previously with Warner as field accountant supervisor.

•

R. HILTON, Altec district manager in Chicago, is a New York visitor.

•

ROBERT E. HELMS has been appointed booker for Screen Guild Productions in Texas.

•

MICHAEL McANDREW, formerly assistant manager at the Suffolk Theatre, Holyoke, Mass., has been promoted to manager of the Strand in Springfield, Mass.

•

ART O'TOOLE, M-G-M salesman in Chicago for 17 years, has joined the RKO office in Chicago.

Investment Limits Planned by Canada

OTTAWA, March 25—That the Canadian government plans to discourage further investments in a broad range of "less essential industries," including amusements, are contained in a statement by Minister of Trade Howe which again emphasizes the need to conserve dollars.

"The new amusement, service, commercial and industrial enterprises in which new investment and construction must be curtailed would provide many pleasant amenities and improvements in the Canadian standard of living," Howe told Parliament, adding: "But they all involve expenditures of United States dollars, and since our supply of dollars is limited it must be rationed."

Increase in Key City Grosses

The pronounced comeback demonstrated by key-city theatre grosses as the new year got under way was sustained last month, according to reports on some 166 situations from MOTION PICTURE DAILY field correspondents. February's weekly average ran only slightly behind January's.

February's figure was $15,010, compared with the $15,937 mean average for January. The average for last month, however, trailed that of February of last year, for which a weekly average of $16,680 was recorded.

Final week of last month, with an average of $16,372, was about on a par with the same week of last year, when $16,869 was averaged. The last week of February 1948 was the top one for the month.

Last month's box-office leader was "The Voice of the Turtle." Second was "Cass Timberlane." Tied for third were "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," "T-Men" and "The Bishop's Wife."

Other outstanding performers were: "Captain from Castile," "I Walk Alone," "The Fugitive," "Gentleman's Agreement" and "Three Daring Daughters." Also turning in better-than-average grosses in a number of situations were: "You Were Meant for Me," "The Senator Was Indiscreet," "A Woman's Vengeance," "Unconquered," "Love from a Stranger," "The Swordsman," "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," "Tycoon," "Sleep My Love," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Night Song," "If You Knew Susie," "Intrigue," "A Double Life," "I Love Trouble," "Call Northside 777," "Relentless," "Golden Earrings," "Louisiana," "Magic Town," "Saigon," "Bambi," "If Winter Comes," "Black Bart" and "Albuquerque."

Composite key-city box-office reports for 1948 to date, compared with corresponding weeks of 1947, follow:

1948 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 2-3	179	$3,406,600	$19,031
Jan. 9-10	168	3,112,700	18,528
Jan. 16-17	168	2,473,300	14,722
Jan. 23-24	166	2,419,000	14,572
Jan. 30-31	166	2,341,900	14,108
Feb. 6-7	167	2,537,800	15,196
Feb. 13-14	166	2,381,500	14,346
Feb. 20-21	164	2,316,500	14,125
Feb. 27-28	167	2,734,100	16,372

1947 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 3-4	167	$3,678,100	$22,024
Jan. 10-11	173	3,363,200	19,400
Jan. 17-18	173	3,007,300	17,383
Jan. 24-25	176	3,043,700	17,294
Jan. 3-Feb. 1	181	2,293,600	18,197
Feb. 7-8	177	3,089,600	17,495
Feb. 14-15	177	2,767,900	15,638
Feb. 21-22	182	3,042,700	16,718
Feb. 28-Mar. 1	166	2,800,300	16,869

Ask 300% Rent Raise For Canadian Theatres

OTTAWA, March 25.—Occupancy rental increases of as much as 300 per cent are being demanded of some exhibitors in Canada by theatre building landlords, rental controls on commercial structures having been lifted by the government. Exhibitors complain that the exhorbitant increases asked for are out of all proportion to operational profits.

Because of widespread complaints in the Dominion, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has started to set up the necessary legal machinery to investigate and prosecute landlords who have made such demands not only on exhibitors but on other commercial operators as well.

$358,105 Canadian Tax on Equipment

Ottawa, March 25,—As a result of the new excise tax on cameras, projectors and the like, the Canadian government collected $358,105 from November, 1947 to February, 1948. The estimated increase following establishment of the new tax was $214,863.

Germany Given 288 Films Since V-E Day

Berlin, March 21 (Via Airmail).—A total of 288 foreign pictures were imported into Germany between the end of the war and the beginning of 1948. Immediately following the capitulation, 62 features were brought in, of which 28 were Russian, 21 American, eight French, and five British. In 1946, the number rose to 122, French productions leading with 49, followed by Russia with 31. America held third place with 26 pictures. Britain imported only 16. In 1947, 104 pictures were imported.

Five films were produced in Germany during 1946 and 15 in 1947. A minimum of about 180 are required to fill the needs of German screens.

U. K. Films to Aid Canada Limitedly

OTTAWA, March 25.—While it is agreed here that every possible encouragement will be given to increase the showing of British-made film in Canada in order to conserve U. S. dollars, film men here do not believe that this will help the currency problem, nor change the screem menu much in Canada.

They point out that only a small increase in British film imports into Canada is anticipated. Bulk of the films are always brought in from the U. S. Last year, 470 films came from the U. S., and only 26 came from Britain.

Any substantial reduction of Hollywood films could not be replaced by British imports, film men also emphasize.

Distinguished Gets One

The British film, "Quiet Weekend," has been acquired for distribution in this country by Distinguished Films, which is planning an American premiere on Broadway this spring. It will be the first British import for Distinguished.

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20th CENTURY-FOX

DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S Production of

Gentleman's



WINNER OF *THREE* ACADEMY AWARDS

THE BEST PICTURE!

The Best Direction by ELIA KAZAN!

The Best Supporting Actress CELESTE HOLM!

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The Best of 20th's Real Life Triumphs—and the Biggest at the Boxoffice

Scudda-Hoo! Sc

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Ask The Men Who Played It In 329 Theatre Premieres! Those "Smoky" Grosses Are Here Again

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Sitting Pretty



"Big!" "Smash!" "Standout!"
Reports Variety for "The
Funniest Picture Ever Made!"*

** Audience vote at every preview!*

le 777



You Were Meant For Me

It's All The Sweet Things
Rolled Up in One Ticket-
Selling Musical!



idda-Hay!



Captain From Castile

TECHNICOLOR

2nd Straight Month
Motion Picture Herald
Boxoffice Champion!



Reviews

"Hazard"

(Paramount)

This farce comedy employs every means in the interests of laughter. The film really cuts loose after a few opening sequences that strike a serious note, belying the fun that lies ahead.

Giving unstintingly of themselves in the farcical situations are Paulette Goddard and Macdonald Carey. Miss Goddard has turned to gambling to try to forget a lover killed in the war. When she sticks a gambling operator with a bad check, they gamble to decide if she goes to jail or marries him. Miss Goddard loses and runs away. The gambler hires Carey to trace her. Her efforts to elude him make up the bulk of the story and end in love.

The picture was ably produced by Mel Epstein and directed in rapid-fire order by George Marshall from a script by Arthur Sheekman and Roy Chanslor derived from a novel by the latter. Running time, 95 minutes. General audience classification. Release date, May 28.

P.E.L.

"The Enchanted Valley"

(Eagle-Lion)

A PEACEFUL mountain valley, where a lame youngster and his grandfather reside, suddenly becomes the scene of a gangland hideout, in "The Enchanted Valley." Photographed in Cinecolor, the film offers some pleasant natural scenes along with some effective bits in which birds and animals live in harmony. The story itself has halting moments and develops along obvious lines.

Alan Curtis heads the cast as the gangster who breaks into the valley retreat accompanied by his underworld aides, Anne Gwynne and Joseph Devlin. As the boy, Donn Gift performs with refreshing simplicity. Charley Grapewin is adequate as the grandfather. Robert Emmett Tansey directed, from an original by Frances Kavanaugh. Jack Schwarz produced.

Running time, 77 minutes. General audience classification. Set for April release.

Mandel Herbstman.

"Overland Trails"

(Monogram)

A ROUTINE western compounded from the ingredients which have been the lifeblood of the "horse opera", "Overland Trails" leaves little wanting in this sphere. Partisans of the Western will be satisfied as Johnny Mack Brown batters culprits and brings justice to the victimized. Raymond Hatton is his saddle pal, Bill Kennedy and Steve Donnell the "heavies". Also in the cast are Virginia Belmont and Holly Bane. Barney Sarecky produced; Lambert Hillyer directed, Running time, 58 minutes. General audience classification. Now in release.

Dewey Signs Theatre Bills

ALBANY, March 25 - Gov. Dewey yesterday signed into law two bills, one extending to towns authority to permit admittance of children aged eight to 16 to film houses where a licensed matron is in attendance, the other making it a misdemeanor to bar a blind person accompanied by a "seeing eye" dog from theatres and other places of amusement.

KRANZE APPOINTS THREE HERE

Promotion of John McKenna to branch manager here and appointment of Harry Decker to handle New York independent circuits have been announced by Distribution vice-president B. G. Kranze of Film Classics. Sidney Weiner has been named office manager.

RUGAR SELLS THEATRES, RETIRES

SALT LAKE CITY, March 25---John A. Rugar, who started in the film business in 1909 as cashier and accountant for one of the first film booking companies in Utah, has retired. Active in regional and national exhibitor affairs for years, he sold his Park City, Utah, theatres to Russ Dauterman of Greenriver, Wyo., and plans to reside in Los Angeles.

PREPARE BROWNOUT ORDER

WASHINGTON, March 25 - In a move to save coal, the Federal Power Commission is preparing an order for a nation-wide brownout, according to reports here.

SHELTON WITH GRAETZ

William Shelton has resigned as general sales manager of Siritzky International and has rejoined the A. F. E. Corp.

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28 WEST 44TH ST.,
NEW YORK 18,
N. Y.

FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 63. NO. 60 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1948 TEN CENTS

TO REOPEN FRENCH FILM PACT

The State Department will consent to the reopening of the Blum-Byrnes French film agreement as soon as it is assured that the French government is taking steps to correct certain discriminations against American film companies, according to an industry executive just returned from Europe. The French are seeking to increase to seven or eight weeks per quarter the present provision requiring their theatres to play French product four weeks in every 13.

Assurances that the French have acted to remove discrimination in raw stock allocations as well as to ease or remove a ruling prohibiting showing of American films dubbed more than two years ago and another barring more than 15 prints of a single American picture from being shown simultaneously, are expected within 10 days, the industry executive said. The Motion Picture Association of America has expressed willingness to renegotiate the accord if these discriminations are removed.

HOUSE BILL ASKS TICKET TAX CUT OF 50 PER CENT

WASHINGTON, March 28 - Another bill to cut the admission tax back to the pre-war 10 per cent rate has been introduced by Rep. Gearhart of California, a member of the influential House Ways and Means Committee.

Johnston Rejects PCCITO

WASHINGTON, March 28 - Motion Picture Association of America president Eric Johnston has flatly rejected a protest by the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners against the "appearance of motion picture stars in political propaganda films, including newsreels." Film stars are not a class apart and must be as free as others to express their views, Johnston said in a letter to PCCITO executive secretary R.H. Poole.

Seek Ticket Tax for Cities

Chicago, March 28 -- A report by a special committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors said today that federal admission taxes should be abandoned at once in order to make this source of revenue available to cities.

The report also said that state governments "literally preempted the most productive forms of taxation. These governments then blandly stand by and let the cities struggle along with what is left."

Ontario Solons Back Levy

TORONTO, March 28 - First reading of the Ontario government's bill for a 20 per cent provincial amusement tax to replace the national 20 per cent tax when the latter is repealed has been upheld in the provincial legislature.

STAGE SHOW THEATRES REJECT ASCAP BOOST

Ascap at the weekend had under advisement a proposal to abolish the special scales for stage show houses in its new theatre music tax schedule. The proposal was presented by spokesmen for operators of combination houses at a meeting here with Ascap representatives last week. It will be submitted to the society's board for official action, with further meetings between the disputants awaiting the directors' decision. Meanwhile, the theatre operators have refused to sign new Ascap contracts calling for 500 per cent increases in rates.

Personal Mention

JAMES MULVEY, president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions, is due here today from the Coast. . .Si Seadler, M-G-M advertising manager, is due back here from the Coast today. . . Fred Sandy, Equity Film Exchanges Washington manager, has arrived in New York.

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, MGM vice-president and general sales manager, has returned to New York from the Coast . . .Norman Panama and Melvin Frank, who produced and wrote the screenplay of "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," are here from Hollywood . . . . Joel Levy, Loew's out-of-town booker, will leave here Wednesday for Toronto . . . Adolph Thenstead and Donald Heywood, produced and composer, respectively, of "Caribben Carnival," have left here for the Coast. . . Russ Swanson, Universal-International booker in Salt Lake City, has resigned.

Spencer Tracy is here from Hollywood.. James Mason is back from Bermuda..Glenn Ford is in New York from Hollywood for radio appearances.

NEIL AGNEW, SRO president, is on a business trip to the Midwest; Milton S. Kusell, SRO vice president, is on a trip to the South and Far West, and Sidney Deneau, assistant general sales manager, is covering the East.

SYLVAN OESTREICHER and Alfred Crown of Samuel Goldwyn Productions arrive here from the Coast today. Ben Kalmenson left the Coast for New York by train over the weekend.

Flooded Rivers End Blackout

TORONTO, March 28 -- With rivers flooded throughout Ontario, total blackouts in Toronto and other Provincial cities have been ended after a month in which theatre performances were affected. Exterior and display illumination will continue to be banned indefinitely.

Asks For Trust Suit Delay

WILMINGTON, March 28 - Cinema Amusements, operator of the Broadway, Denver, Colo., plaintiff in an anti-trust suit against Loew's, RKO Radio and 20th-Fox, has asked for a postponement of trial in Federal court here, pending a decision by the U. S. Supreme Court in the Government's anti-trust suit.

Waive Video Broadcast Rule

WASHINGTON, March 28 - Federal Communications Commission has again waived, until June 30, its rule requiring television stations to be on the air a minimum of 28 hours a week. During the next three months the FCC will study a proposal from the Television Broadcasters Association for a scale of hours graduated in proportion to the time the station is in existence.

England Plans Natl Theatre

LONDON, March 28 -- Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has disclosed that the Labor Government plans to introduce a bill to subsidize a national legitimate theatre. The project, which would have government backing of up to $4,000,000, is among those mentioned by Eric Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America president, as a possible recipient of U. S. film earnings in the British market.

Exempts 35 mm. Machines

OTTAWA, March 28-That 35mm. projectors are free of the import embargo on projectors was disclosed by a Canadian government amplification of the order restoring the ban.

W.B. Names Heindorf

HOLLYWOOD, March 28 -- Ray Heindorf succeeds the late Leo Forbstein as the musical director of Warner's studio.

Require Syrian Branches

WASHINGTON, March 28 - Syria's government has notified all foreign distributors that they must open an office in that country by June 1 if they want to continue distributing picture there, the U. S. Commerce Department reports.

Sees $600-Million Television Sales

Syracuse, March 28.—Television within the next five years will develop into a $600,000,000 receiver sales business at retail value and will serve more than 40,000,000 people, Arthur A. Brandt, general sales manager of General Electric's electronics department, estimated in an opening talk at a three-day television seminar here at Electronics Park.



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Indies Dollar Position Unchanged

WASHINGTON, March 28 - Officials of the Dutch East Indies government declare that it is not likely that U. S. film distributors will be able to convert any of their earnings into dollars for the rest of this year, according to a Commerce Department report prepared by motion picture consultant Nathan D. Golden.

The report says that most U.S. producers are continuing to send films to the Indies, despite the exchange outlook.

Legion Classifies 10 Films

National Legion of Decency has classified 10 pictures as follows: Class A-I: "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay!", 20th Century-Fox; "Tarzan and the Mermaids," RKO Radio. Class A-II: "The Bride Goes Wild" and "The Pirate", M-G-M; "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," Selznick Releasing Organization; "So This is New York," United Artists. Class B: "Are You With It?", Universal-International; "To the Victor," Warner; "Paisan," (Italian), Mayer-Burstyn. Class C: "The Eternal Return," (French), Discina.

REOPEN UPSTATE THEATRE

ALBANY, N.Y., March 28 - New Casino Theatre, Waterford, which was closed by State police as unsafe, has been reopened following fire-proofing and repairs by manager Morris Koffsky of Albany. He was fined $25. The house was closed March 14.

MPAA Promotional Group Plans Campaigns for 35 New Films

Motion Picture Association of America's advertising-publicity committee formulated at the weekend plans for a campaign of wide-spread promotion for some 35 pictures forthcoming from studios of all companies, Maurice Bergman, committee chairman, announced through MPAA. Slogan of the campaign, which is designed to offset unfavorable publicity which has fallen to the industry of recent months, will be "Great Days Are Ahead for the Movie-Goers of America!" The committee has laid plans for production of a trailer designed to "sell" the industry and its product, and has indicated it will cooperate with Theatre Owners of America's public relations program and similar programs in other areas of the industry.

"Arch" Opens Here April 17

United Artists will open Enterprise's "Arch of Triumph" at the Globe here April 17.

Charles Stern Dead

Funeral services will be held at Riverside Memorial Chapel here today for Charles Stern, 79, assistant treasurer of Loew's, Inc., who died at his New York home of a heart attack on Friday morning. He was one of the organizers of the old Metro Pictures Corp. Interment will follow at Ferncliff Cemetery, Hartsdale, N. Y.

Notice

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S normal appearance is being affected by a work stoppage in a dispute between the typographical union and the employing printer.



THIS IS WHY —

Bing Crosby says



"Thanks, Ken, for letting me see 'Bill and Coo!' It won't be beaten. It won t be tied. It's the greatest."

Bob Hope says



"The grandest entertainment I've seen in ages. So different I could hardly believe my eyes."

Edgar Bergen says



"Charlie thinks 'Bill and Coo' is great. Mortimer says it's wonderful. And I speak for both of them."

Everybody says

"You've never seen anything like it!"
"Most unusual picture ever filmed!"
"An entertainment thrill you'll never forget."





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BILL and COO

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featuring
BURTON'S LOVE BIRDS
and Curley Twiford's
JIMMY THE CROW

Directed by DEAN RIESNER
Screen Play by Royal Foster and Dean Riesner
Based on an Idea from Ken Murray's Blackouts
Produced by KEN MURRAY

A REPUBLIC PRODUCTION

Review

"The Pirate"

(M-G-M)

A PICTORIAL knockout, this extravaganza based on the play of the same name by S.N. Behrman is a lengthy and rambling musical with its highspot in the polished, graceful performance by Gene Kelly -- plus his adept footwork which raises the end result from the maw of downright mediocrity.

Producer Arthur Freed and director Vincente Minnelli obviously sought to bring off something different in the musical field. They have succeeded in varying terms in this fanciful tale of a young girl who builds her dreams around a fabulous pirate only to fall for a traveling troubadour. Miss Garland is the girl and Kelly the boy. Walter Slezak, the genuine heavy, gets his just deserts as the pirate turned respectable.

Production values are superb, but entertainment values never approach the same level. However, "The Pirate" is so big, so lavish and so mixed up that it includes something of interest to different audience levels, in particular children who are quite apt to view it as a field day. Cole Porter wrote the music, Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich the script. Running time, 102 minutes. General audience classification. Release date: May.

RED KANN

Appeal Brief Hits Goldman

WASHINGTON, March 28 - Major distributors told the U. S. Supreme Court in a brief that Goldman Theatres in its anti-trust suit seeks to take pictures away from Warner houses in Philadelphia.

This is not a case of a reservoir of unplayed films, the appellants declared, in seeking a review of a lower court's ruling in favor of Goldman

UN Service Offered to Producers

HOLLYWOOD, March 28 - Consultation services of the United Nations Film and Visual Information Division have been placed at the disposal of producers of entertainment features by Jean Benoit-Levy, director of the UN division. Use of the "storage of ideas" are available at no cost and without obligation or supervision from the UN group, he said.

Short Subjects

"CRISIS IN ITALY"

(March of Time -- 20th-Fox)

With next month's Italian elections making headlines daily, March of Time has effected a first-rate screen "scoop" in this timely examination of Italy's heterogeneous political make-up and threatening Communist coup. Realistic, informative and highly exploitable, subject should win large audiences. Running time, 19 minutes.

"FUNNY BUSINESS"

(This is America -- RKO Radio)

For better or worse the comics in the past half century have become the folk reading of the country. Examined in the film is the part they play in our lives and the industries that have sprung up as a result of them. Also explored are both sides of the sociological controversy that surrounds the comics. Running time, 18 minutes.

Chicago Ruling Expected Tuesday

CHICAGO, March 28 - Decision in the Jackson Park Theatre case contempt hearings which ended March 5 will be announced Tuesday by Judge Michael Igoe who has returned from a vacation, according to reports.

Moline Gets 4 PC Tax

CHICAGO, March 28 -- Adoption of a four per cent ticket tax in order to meet deficits has been announced by the Moline city council. Tax becomes effective next week.

Snow Cuts Salt Lake Grosses

SALT LAKE CITY, March 28 - Heavy snowstorms during the past two weeks have resulted in sharp cuts in grosses in some cities of the Salt Lake City exchange area.

AMPA Election Set for April 1

Associated Motion Picture Advertisers will elect officers at Headquarters Restaurant here on April 1.

Mexico Hits U.K. Ban

MEXICO CITY, March 28 - Retaliation against nations that ban Mexican films is expected to be recommended by the recently-organized National Cinematographic Commission. The group, which includes government, trade and labor representatives, seeks specifically to counter Britain's curb on this country's product.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

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N. Y. (2 COPIES)

VOL. 63. NO. NO. 61 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1948 TEN CENTS

U.S. TAX COLLECTIONS LOWER IN FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON, March 29 - General admission tax collections in February, reflecting January boxoffice business, were sharply below February, 1947, totaling $25,410,738 compared with $28,823,689 last year.

This is the second successive month that collections were far below 1947. January general admission collections totaled $28,688,455, compared with $31,766,201 in January, 1947.

B.O. SCALES AT NEW HIGH

WASHINGTON, March 29-At the end of the year, the index of combined adult and children's admission prices stood at 166.9, compared with 163.5 in June (the last previous month for which figures were available) and 165.4 in March, the previous high, according to the U.S.Bureau of Labor Statistics.The 1935-39 average is 100.0.

Adult admissions also hit a new high. After a long rise to 165.7 in March, 1947, they dropped to 164.1 in June, stayed at 164.1 through September,and rose to 167.7 at the end of December. Admission costs for children went up from 158.5 in June to 161.0 in December.

Rank Says "Play Brititish"

HOLLYWOOD, March 29 -- Quickest way for America to realize a cash return from England under the British government - Motion Picture Association of America accord to end the British ad valorem tax is by increasing exhibition of British films in this country, J. Arthur Rank said here today. He added he does not expect American companies to step up production in England to any great degree since that means would take longer to bolster income. Studio space for American use is plentiful in England, he said.

LEWIS BILL in SECOND START

WASHINGTON, March 29 -- The Allied States-sponsored Lewis Bill, which would have producers negotiate with Ascap for music licensing fees, has a new lease on life, although observers give it little chance for passage.

Rep.Lewis, chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee which voted last week to kill the proposal, has persuaded Rep. Lane, who opposed the bill, to move that it be reconsidered. Such a move makes reconsideration automatic,and Lewis plans to have further discussion on the measure at a subcommittee meeting this week, probably Wednesday.

REPUBLIC JOINS MPA

All Motion Picture Association directors were reelected and Republic was admitted to membership in the MPA yesterday at its annual meeting. The meeting, conducted largely by proxy, had Francis Harmon as chairman in the absence of Eric Johnston, president of the MPAA,while Sidney Schreiber served as secretary. The board will meet on April 12.

Johnston to Frisco

WASHINGTON,March 29--Motion Picture Association of America president Eric Johnston is in San Francisco, having flown there to be with his mother who is criticallu ill.

Minor Changes in ITO Pact

WASHINGTON, March 29-State Department officials report here that only "minor drafting changes" had been made in the guarantees of film freedom in the International Trade Organization charter drawn at Havana, as compared with the Geneva version.The basic provision outlawing all quantitative restrictions on films except screen quotas is unchanged, they stated.

Personal Mention

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, 20th-Fox president and Lyman Munson, Jr., of the company's Coast studio, left here for London yesterday by plane to study British production possibilities . . . Edward M. Saunders, assistant M-G-M sales manager, is due back here today from Knoxville, where he attended the Easter Sunday wedding of his daughter, Ann Patricia . . . John Franconi, Dallas Screen Guild franchise holder, is visiting here . . . Jules Weill, president of Masterpiece Productions, is en route to Hollywood, from New York . . . Irving Shiffrin, film publicist, is en route to Hollywood from New York.

MONROE GREENTHAL is in Port-au-Prince, Haiti . . . Silas F. Seadler, M-G-M advertising head, has returned to New York from Arizona and California . . . Joseph F. Goetz, formerly with RKO Theatres in the Midwest, has been recalled by the Air Force for duty in Washington. . . Grover Parsons, Eagle-Lion Southern district manager, has returned to Atlanta from New York . . . George Weltner, A. L. Pratchett, Clement S. Crystal and Abe Platt, all of Paramount International, will attend the opening of Paramount's new Tacna Theatre, in Lima, Peru, tomorrow . . . Arthur Isaacs, Republic salesman in Cleveland, has become engaged to Florence Rabinovitz of that city.

ROY HAINES, Warner Western division sales manager, has left for Detroit to install Donald Woods as branch manager . . . Ed Hinchy, head of Warner's home office playdate department, will leave here tonight for Washington and Philadelphia.

Small and Eagle-Lion Part

HOLLYWOOD, March 29--Dissatisfaction over advertising and publicity credits on "T-Men" has led to the severance of relations between Edward Small, the film's producer, and Eagle-Lion, its distributor. The E-L name will be eliminated from the film except as distributor. The same applies to Small's "Raw Deal." The producer also has cancelled plans to finance and make "Twelve Against the Underworld" for E-L, which will go ahead with production of the picture on its own.

Br'd'way. Grosses Zoom

Easter and blustery weekend weather joined forces to lift Broadway first-run grosses out of the doldrums and into the "good" to "excellent" range as five newcomers started their runs.

"I Remember Mama" (plus traditional Easter show on stage), Radio City Music Hall, third week, $115,000; "Sitting Pretty" (plus Art Mooney's band), Roxy, third week, $115,000; "The Naked City" (plus Tex Beneke's band), Capitol, fourth week, $112,000 expected; "Road to Rio" (plus Louis Prima's band), Paramount, sixth and last week, $60,000 ("Saigon" plus Buddy Rich's band, the Mills Brothers and Dean Murphy will start tomorrow); "Gentleman's Agreement," Mayfair, 20th week, $30,000; "Adventures of Casanova," Globe, second week, $16,000; "Miracle of the Bells," Rivoli, second week, good at around $50,000.

Openings: "All My Sons," Loew's Criterion, expected to crowd the house's record of $60,000; "April Showers" (plus Claude Thornhill's band), Strand, $57,000; "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," Astor, $44,000; "The Search," Victoria, $32,000; "Bill and Coo," Gotham, $11,000.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Rockefeller Center
IRENE DUNNE in GEORGE STEVENS' Prod. of
"I REMEMBER MAMA"
Barbara BEL GEDDES Oscar HOMOLKA Philip DORN
Produced by HARRIET PARSONS
Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

The Adventures of Robin Hood
STARRING ERROL FLYNN OLIVIA deHAVILLAND
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
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ALAN LADD and VERONICA LAKE in "SAIGON"
A Paramount Picture
PARAMOUNT
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"APRIL SHOWERS"
JACK CARSON ANN SOTHERN
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Extra! MOREY AMSTERDAM
WARNER BROS. STRAND
OPENS 9:30 AM B'WAY AT 47th
LATE MIDNIGHT FILM

RUSSELL JANNEY'S "THE MIRACLE OF THE BELLS"
starring FRED MacMURRAY Valli FRANK SINATRA
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES
RIVOLI B'way at 49th St.

SOL LESSER presents EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS'
Tarzan and the Mermaids
JOHNNY WEISSMULLER · BRENDA JOYCE
and introducing LINDA CHRISTIAN
RKO RADIO PICTURES
PALACE B'WAY & 47th ST. · DOORS OPEN 9 A.M. MIDNITE SHOW NITELY

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L. S. Schlesinger Dies

PHILADELPHIA, March 29 -- Funeral services for Leonard S. Schlesinger, 42, president of Warner Brothers Service Corp., will be held here Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. from the Oliver H. Bair Parlor, with burial in St. Louis. Schlesinger died in Jefferson Hospital here yesterday after a long illness. He is survived by the widow.

Suggest Forrestal-MPAA Confab

WASHINGTON, March 29 -- Representatives of newsreels and other information media today suggested Secretary of Defense Forrestal call on the Motion Picture Association of America and other information organizations to appoint members of a Security Advisory Council to advise and discuss with him on types of information that should be withheld for national security reasons.

The meeting refused to take some of the more stringent steps asked by Forrestal, and let loose several blasts at "peacetime censorship."

Houses Threaten Shutdown

MOLINE, ILL., March 29 - Film houses here have threatened to close in two weeks unless the local four per cent amusement tax on theatres, described as discriminatory, is rescinded.

Rank Dublin House Reopens

DUBLIN, March 29 - J. Arthur Rank's Metropole Theatre reopened here Saturday with the Irish premiere of "The Best Years of Our Lives." Trade and government officials participated.



TWA Constellations set new winter performance record

On its coast-to-coast and New York-Chicago routes, TWA's Constellations flew 4,377,000 miles, carried 117,000 passengers—completed 97% of scheduled mileage during one of worst winters in history!

For reservations, call your TWA office or your travel agent

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Notice

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S normal appearance is being affected by a work stoppage in a dispute between the typographical union and the employing printer.

SIMPP to MEET HERE

Members of the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers will be convoked in New York this week for a review of aspects of the recent agreement to reopen the British film market as they affect independents, James Mulvey, president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions, disclosed here yesterday. Mulvey, who represented SIMPP at the London conferences between the British government and the Motion Picture Association of America, also said he expects the British-U.S. industry board, which will administer the provisions of the pact, to be set up soon.

Kan.-Mo. Allied Meet May 12

KANSAS CITY, March 29--First annual spring convention of Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Kansas and Missouri, Inc., has been set for the Muehlebach Hotel, here, May 12-13. Among matters to be taken up are the adoption of by-laws and constitution, election of board members, and the formation of procedure and policies.

Raise for Rep. Employes

Wage increases ranging from $5 to $8 have been granted some 80 Republic home office employes in an arbitration award, the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild has announced. The increases are retroactive to Sept. 27, 1947.

A.T.&T. Files Video Rates

WASHINGTON, March 29--Proposed rates for intercity television transmission were filed with the Federal Communications Commission today by A. T. & T. Rates for regular broadcasters: $35 monthly per airline mile for eight-hour day, with $2 monthly per mile for each additional hour. Rates for occasional users: $1 monthly a mile for first hour, 25 cents each extra 15 minutes.

Settle Albany AAA Dispute

ALBANY, N.Y., March 28 --- American Arbitration Association action brought by Eagle Theatre here against Paramount on double clearance granted the Delaware and Colonial, was settled today by stipulation before Arbitrator C. E. Brennan. Eagle, Royal and Paramount theatres will henceforth get Paramount product 28 days after second run. Eagle had been seven days behind third-run Delaware and Colonial.



NAKED

Stanley Theater* in the biggest busin

* Ask Harry Kalmine about "NAKED CITY", best dressed box-office attraction in many a moon.

Universal International

Opened Wednesday—Holy Week.

CITY at Warner's

Philadelphia turns in ess in forty weeks!

There's no limit to what you'll do with this great box-office attraction!

Get ready now to push it and hold it!



Ride high with U-I

Reviews

"To The Victor"

(Warner)

INTENSIVE and informative exploitation figures to pay off for this peculiarly constituted story of post-war France which owes a good deal of its interest to the fact that much of it was filmed in that country, with Omaha Beach and Paris streets, landmarks and institutions as background. So compulsive is the appeal of this expertly photographed setting that it overshadows at times that of the somberly melodramatic story of black market and collaborationist activities which engages the talents of Dennis Morgan, Viveca Lindfors, Victor Francen, Bruce Bennet and other able players. It's a decidedly unpretty story, but forceful.

Jerry Wald produced the picture, and Delmer Daves directed it, from a story and screenplay by Richard Brooks. Running time, 99 minutes. Adult audience classification. Release date not set.

William R. Weaver

"Man From Texas"

(Eagle-Lion)

THE ADVENTURES of a highwayman have been made into an interesting variant of a standard Western, though at times the film follows stereotyped lines. As merchandise, it should get the usual Western devotees plus customers who like a measure of plot complexity.

James Craig is a Western-type Robin Hood whose evil exploits for moral ends get him into all sorts of narrow escapes, until the law eventually catches up with him. Lynn Bari is the wife and Una Merkel the widow-in-distress. Joseph Fields produced from a screenplay by himself and Jerome Chodorov. Leigh Jason directed. Running time, 71 minutes. General audience classification. Release in March.

Mandel Herbstman

"Money Madness"

(Film Classics)

A TAUT, convincing picture has been turned out on a minimum budget by veteran producer Sigmund Neufeld. Story is unusual in its convolutions, and the treatment, utilizing actual streets and a minimum of sets, is almost documentary.

Story has Hugh Beaumont as the attractive young man who comes to town, marries Frances Rafferty, kills her aunt, then tells Miss Rafferty the truth, that he is a bank robber with $200,000 of "hot money". As his wife, she is implicated. Miss Rafferty reluctantly aids him in further murder but he overplays his shrewdness and police kill him. Film opens with sentencing of the girl to 10 years in prison; rest of the story is flashback. Running time, 73 minutes. Adult classification. Release date, April 15.

Short Subject

"20 YEARS OF ACADEMY AWARDS"

(RKO Radio)

Motion picture "greats" from 1927 through 1947 are brought back to the screen in this two-reel subject, produced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for release by RKO Radio. The subject makes a particularly interesting and timely one as glimpses of the "Oscar" winners, stars and pictures pass in historical review. Proceeds of the short will go to the Academy. Running time, 18 minutes.

Production Up To 29

HOLLYWOOD, March 29-Production tally rose to 26 against last week's 23.

Shooting started on "Babe Ruth Story" (Allied Artists), "Partners of the Sunset," "Michael O'Halloran," "Smuggler's Cove," Monogram; "Blue Lady," "Eyes of Texas," Republic; "Burlesque," "Road House," "Checkered Coat," 20th-Fox. Finished were: "Texas Sandman," Columbia; "Let's Live a Little," Eagle-Lion; "Streets of San Francisco," Republic; "Fighting Back," "Gay Intruder," 20th-Fox; "One Touch of Venus," U-I.

WARREN HYMER FUNERAL ON COAST

HOLLYWOOD, March 29 -- Funeral services for Warren Hymer, actor, 42, were held here this morning. Hymer, who died of a stomach ailment, had been in pictures for 20 years.

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FIRST IN FILM NEWS

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Accurate Concise and Impartial

VOL. 73. NO. 62 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1948 TEN CENTS

$2,436,000 Anti-Trust Suit Filed vs. Majors

WILMINGTON, March 30--I.B. Adelman, owner-operator of the Delman Theatre in Houston, Tex., has filed an anti-trust suit in Federal Court here against Paramount, Loew's, RKO, Warner, 20th Century-Fox, Columbia, United Artists, Universal, Interstate Circuit and Texas Consolidated Theatres, asking for treble damages of $2,436,000.

Adelman claims a restraint of trade product conspiracy resulted in his loss of $312,000 on the Delman operation and $500,000 on the sale of his half interest in the Alabama River, Oaks and Alameda theatres in Houston to Interstate.

MGM Has 5 in England

M-G-M has shipped its five-picture limit to England, as agreed with other companies for the period to June 14, Samuel Eckman, chairman and managing director of M-G-M, Ltd., London, announced. The block, which is now in bond, will be put in release late in April.

Eckman disclosed that the company expects to start production in England in its own studio soon. Eckman said no upsurge of American production in England is expected before late September because British circuits are booked well in advance.

Public Relations Held Vital

Development of an "all-out" industry public relations program to "impress upon the world at large the value of the screen" was urged here yesterday by M. A. Lightman, president of Malco Theatres, Memphis. Such a program is vital, Lightman believes, because "the industry is most derelict about the problems confronting it." Lightman leaves New York for Cincinnati today enroute to Memphis.

55 MILLIONS for NEW THEATRES

WASHINGTON, March 30 - A backlog of about $55,000,000 worth of theatre construction is expected to get underway beginning tomorrow when curbs are scheduled to end. President Truman's approval of the Rent Control Extension Bill, the final step to end construction curbs, is due late today.

Last week the Housing Expediter approved 16 theatre projects, including remodelling, costing $944,875, and denied nine which would have cost $768,034. From July 1, 1947 to date it approved 382 theatres costing $16,097,867 and turned down 990 projects valued at $50,613,847. As of last Friday, there were 59 applications pending, involving $4,995,668.

3 Millions for Overseas Program

WASHINGTON, March 30--The House Appropriations Committee today voted to give the State Department's overseas information program only $3,000,000 of the $5,120,000 additional funds sought to expand its activities under the Smith-Mundt act from now to June 30.

Five 20th-Fox Releases in May

Twentieth Century-Fox will release five pictures during May, Andrew Smith, Jr., general sales manager, announced here yesterday. They are: "Fury at Furnace Creek," "The Iron Curtain," "Arthur Takes Over," "The Counterfeiters" and "Anna Karenina." At the same time, the company disclosed the first film it will make in England under the recent tax accord will be "Gay Pursuit," with Samuel G. Engel as producer.

WU Video Rates to the FCC

WASHINGTON, March 30--Western Union today proposed to the Federal Communications Commission that it be allowed to charge $4,700 a month for use of its television and radio relay facilities between any two cities for an eight-hour day beginning at four P.M.

No Adverse Legislation from 3

WASHINGTON, March 30 -- California, Arizona and Utah legislatures have adjourned without enacting any adverse industry legislation, according to Motion Picture Association of America legislative representative Jack Bryson. Seven state legislatures are still in session.

GPE Profit $1,242,027 in 1947

Consolidated net profit of General Precision Equipment Corp. in 1947 was $1,242,027, compared with $1,742,694 the previous year. Last year's consolidated net sales of $27,748,137 were the largest in the company's history.

Jack Robbins on Ascap Board

Jack Robbins has been named to the Ascap board, replacing John J.C'Connor, who declined to run for reelection. Renamed as directors are Gene Buck, Max Dreyfux, Donald Gray, Ray Henderson, Jack Tasker Howard, George W. Meyer, and Jack Mills.

Record Music Hall SRO

For the second consecutive day, the Music Hall yesterday "completed the square" by 10:45 A.M. when ticket buyers three to four abreast lined up on 50th Street East to Rockefeller Plaza, North on the Plaza to 51st Street and West on the latter street to Sixth Avenue.

Army Newsreel Control in D.C.

WASHINGTON, March 30 - The Army has taken away from its overseas commanders control over accrediting newsreel men and other correspondents and centralized control here, under a new directive on U.S. correspondents abroad.

ITOA to Host Wallander

Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander and License Commissioner Benjamin Fielding will be guests of the Independent Theatre Owners Association at a luncheon-meeting at the Hotel Astor here tomorrow.

Music Hall Gross $155,000

Motion Picture Daily yesterday reported an estimated gross of $115,000 for Radio City Music Hall ("I Remember Mama" and Easter stage show) for the week ending tonight. The week's figure should have been $155,000.

Ends Mississippi 'Blue Law'

JACKSON, Miss., March 30--Operation of motion picture theatres on Sundays between one P.M. and six P.M. is permitted under a law signed by Gov. Wright. It is the first "Blue Law" to be lifted in this state since 1822.

John Curry, 47, Salesman

LOS ANGELES, March 30 - John Joseph Curry, 47, Paramount salesman here, died this morning of a heart attack.

Notice

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Personal Mention

RICHARD F. WALSH, IATSE president, has returned to New York from Washington . . . Robert W. Coyne, executive director of the TOA, will be in Chattanooga this week. . . Fred Sandy, manager of Equity Pictures' Washington office, is in New York . . . E.L.McEvoy, U-I short subject sales manager, is in Chicago from New York.

BUDD ROGERS, Realart distribution head, and Joseph Harris, board chairman, are holding Midwestern salesmeetings. . .Ingrid Bergman will arrive in New York from Hollywood on Sunday . . . Leo Seligman, Favorite Films treasurer, will leave here Friday for Miami Beach. Lynn Farnol, Samuel Goldwyn's advertising-publicity director, is due in New York today from Hollywood.



Now at your service!

FIVE STAR

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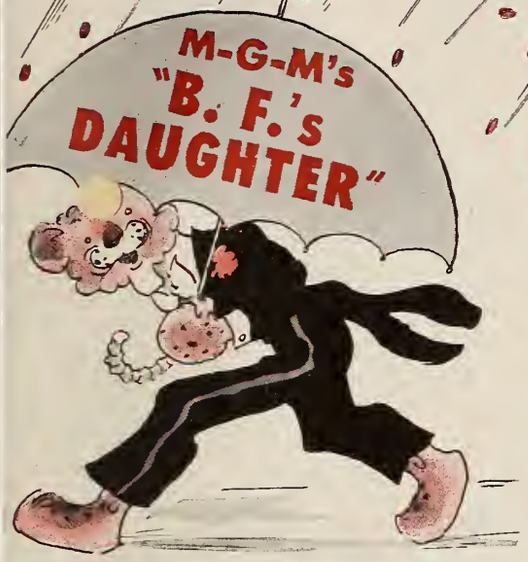
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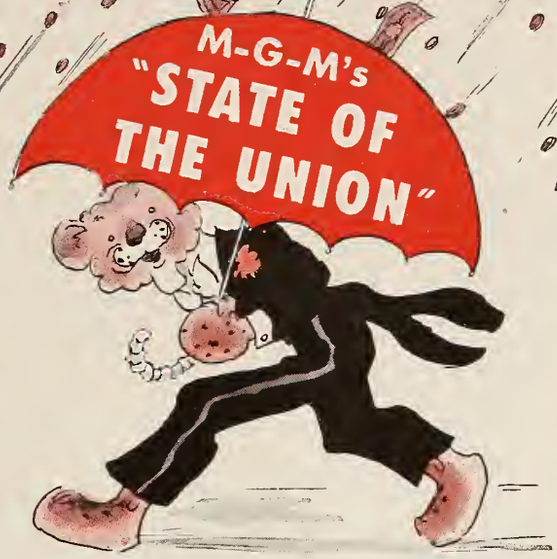
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Metro-GOLDEN-Mayer SHOWER of HITS!



M-G-M presents "B. F.'s DAUGHTER" starring BARBARA STANWYCK VAN HEFLIN • CHARLES COBURN RICHARD HART • KEENAN WYNN A ROBERT Z. LEONARD PRODUCTION • Screen Play by Luther Davis Based on the Novel by John P. Marquand • Directed by ROBERT Z. LEONARD • Produced by EDWIN H. KNOPF • An M-G-M Picture



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Liberty Films present SPENCER TRACY KATHARINE HEPBURN • VAN JOHNSON • ANGELA LANSBURY ADOLPHE MENJOU • LEWIS STONE in FRANK CAPRA'S "STATE OF THE UNION" • Based on the Play by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse Screen Play by Anthony Veiller and Myles Connolly • Associate Producer ANTHONY VEILLER • Produced and Directed by FRANK CAPRA • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture



M-G-M presents "SUMMER HOLIDAY" • MICKEY ROONEY • GLORIA DeHAVEN • Walter Huston • Frank Morgan • Butch Jenkins • Marilyn Maxwell • Agnes Moorehead • Selena Royle • Color by TECHNICOLOR Adapted by Irving Brecher and Jean Holloway • From the Screen Play by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett Based on the Play "Ah, Wilderness!" by Eugene O'Neill • Music by Harry Warren • Lyrics by Ralph Blane • Directed by ROUBEN MAMOULIAN Produced by ARTHUR FREED • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"THE PIRATE" (TECHNICOLOR)

M-G-M presents JUDY GARLAND • GENE KELLY in "THE PIRATE" • WALTER SLEZAK • Gladys Cooper • Reginald Owen • Songs by COLE PORTER • Color by TECHNICOLOR Screen Play by Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich • Based on the Play by S. N. Behrman • Dance Direction by Robert Alton and Gene Kelly • Directed by VINCENTE MINNELLI • Produced by ARTHUR FREED • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"BIG CITY"

M-G-M presents "BIG CITY" starring MARGARET O'BRIEN ROBERT PRESTON • DANNY THOMAS • GEORGE MURPHY KARIN BOOTH • EDWARD ARNOLD • BUTCH JENKINS and introducing to the screen BETTY GARRETT and LOTTE LEHMANN • Screen Play by Whitfield Cook and Anne Morrison Chapin • Additional Dialogue by Aben Kandel • Based on a Story by Miklos Laszlo • As Adapted by Nanette Kutner • Directed by NORMAN TAUROG • Produced by JOE PASTERNAK A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"EASTER PARADE" (TECHNICOLOR)

M-G-M presents IRVING BERLIN's "EASTER PARADE" starring JUDY GARLAND • FRED ASTAIRE • PETER LAWFORD ANN MILLER • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Screen Play by Sidney Sheldon, Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett • Original Story by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett • Lyrics and Music by Irving Berlin • Musical Numbers Directed by Robert Alton Directed by CHARLES WALTERS • Produced by ARTHUR FREED • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"JULIA MISBEHAVES"

M-G-M presents GREER GARSON • WALTER PIDGEON in "JULIA MISBEHAVES" • PETER LAWFORD • CESAR ROMERO ELIZABETH TAYLOR • Lucile Watson • Nigel Bruce • Mary Boland • Directed by JACK CONWAY • Produced by EVERETT RISKIN • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"HOMECOMING"

M-G-M presents CLARK GABLE • LANA TURNER • ANNE BAXTER • JOHN HODIAK in "HOMECOMING" • Ray Collins • Gladys Cooper • Cameron Mitchell • A MERVYN LeROY PRODUCTION • Original Story by Sidney Kingsley Adaptation by Jan Lustig • Screen Play by Paul Osborn • Directed by MERVYN LeROY • Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"ON AN ISLAND WITH YOU" (TECHNICOLOR)

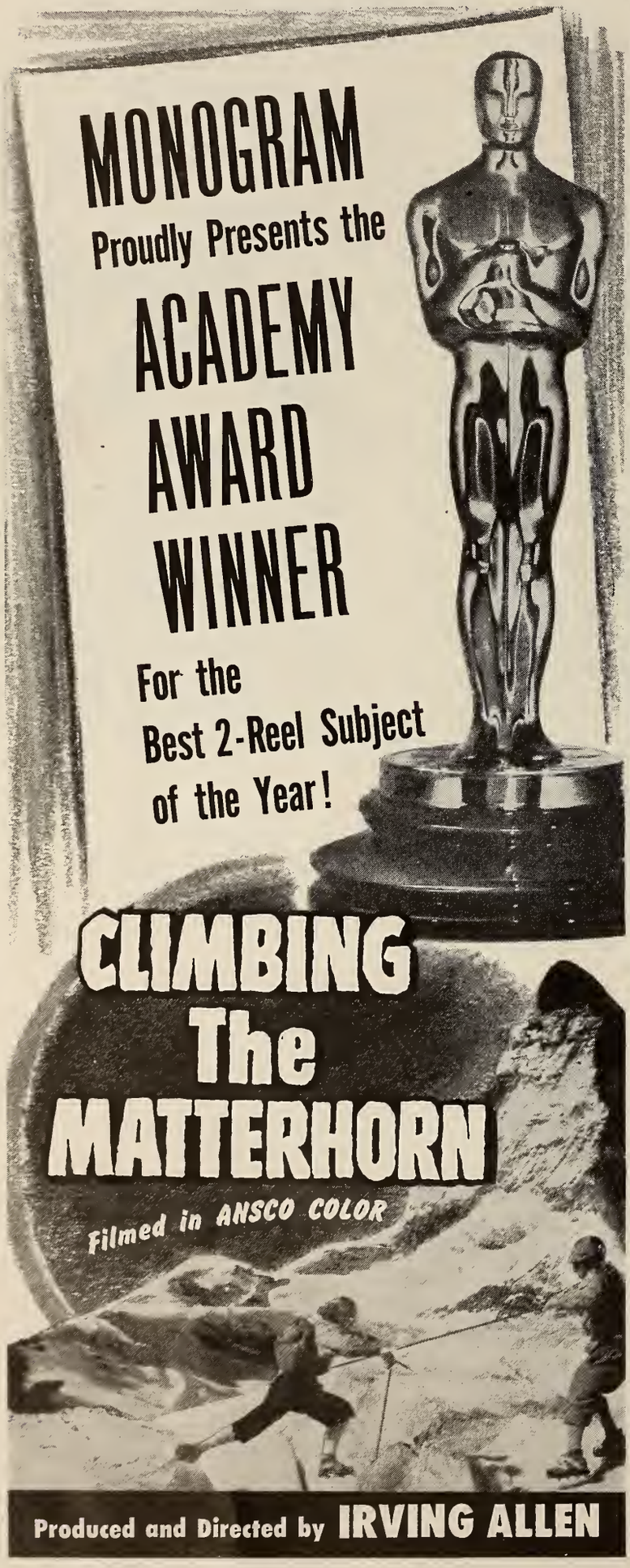
M-G-M presents ESTHER WILLIAMS • PETER LAWFORD RICARDO MONTALBAN • JIMMY DURANTE • CYD CHARISSE • XAVIER CUGAT and his orchestra • "ON AN ISLAND WITH YOU" • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Screen Play by Dorothy Kingsley, Dorothy Cooper, Charles Martin and Hans Wilhelm • From an original story by Charles Martin and Hans Wilhelm • Directed by RICHARD THORPE • Produced by JOE PASTERNAK • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"A DATE WITH JUDY" (TECHNICOLOR)

M-G-M presents "A DATE WITH JUDY" starring WALLACE BEERY • JANE POWELL • ELIZABETH TAYLOR • CARMEN MIRANDA • XAVIER CUGAT and his orchestra • ROBERT STACK • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Screen Play by Dorothy Cooper and Dorothy Kingsley • Based on the characters created by Aleen Leslie • Directed by RICHARD THORPE • Produced by JOE PASTERNAK • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

"A SOUTHERN YANKEE"

M-G-M presents RED SKELTON • BRIAN DONLEVY in "A SOUTHERN YANKEE" • ARLENE DAHL • George Coulouris Lloyd Gough • John Ireland • Minor Watson • Screen Play by Harry Tugend • From an Original Story by Melvin Frank and Norman Panama • Directed by S. SYLVAN SIMON • Produced by PAUL JONES • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture



Plan Studio in Seattle

SEATTLE, March 30 -- Plans for construction of a $100,000 building and motion picture studio, first of its kind north of Hollywood and west of Chicago, have been announced by Jack Shallow, Jr., and Paul Chapas, Jr., both of Western Screen, here, producers of commercial, educational, documentary and training films.

Video Theatre at Exposition

ATLANTIC CITY, March 30-In conjunction with the International Industrial Exposition which opens here June 26, a television theatre, with an 18-foot screen believed to be the largest in the East, will operate on Steel Pier.

Network Video Meet Here

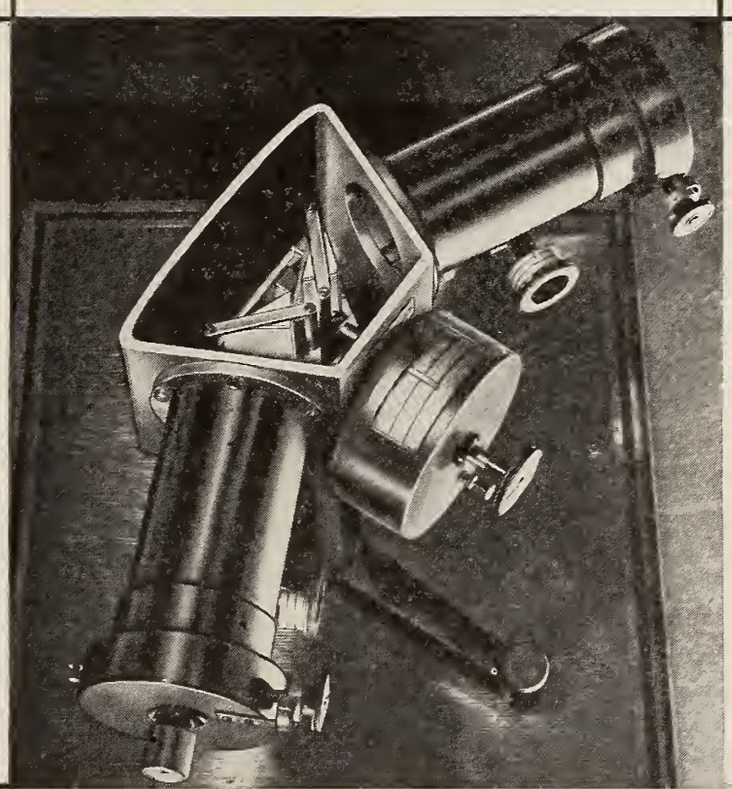
More than 200 executives of 100 CBS stations have begun to arrive in New York for the first nationwide network television clinic, to be held tomorrow in the Waldorf-Astoria, and called by Columbia Broadcasting.

3rd Link for CBS Video

The Baltimore Sun television station yesterday became the third link in Columbia Broadcasting System's video network. The other two stations are in New York and Philadelphia.



Meet the Monochrometer!



When we say that the light from a "National" High Intensity Carbon Arc is an ideal balance of all the colors of the rainbow, there's no guesswork involved.

We split that snow-white light up into its individual bands of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet in the monochrometer shown above. Then we measure the intensity of each band by means of electrical impulses.

What do we find?

We find that the light from a "National" High Intensity Carbon Arc is the closest to sunlight of any man-made light. Its color balance is nearly perfect. It insures that your color film will glow with the rich vivid detail that thoroughly satisfies your patrons.

Moreover, a "National" High Intensity Carbon Arc is the most powerful point source of light in existence. It projects pictures that can be seen clearly from every seat in the house. Box-office insurance? Yes, sir!



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